We have a community member that will match what we raise. Our goal is 5k. $1,345 has already been designated so far.

Over 40 yrs inside. He is currently in an infirmary. A dark room only looking at walls. He maintains his innocence of the original crime accused.

0 7 12 658

FREE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Customized by topic, sourced from any news, website, feed, social media, etc. Mail or CORRLINKS/JPAY midwestb2p@gmail.com. For more information on subscribing, write:

Midwest Books to Prisoners Newsletter Program
1321 N Milwaukee PMB 460
Chicago, IL 60622

IGD: 2015 – 2025

October 18, 2025

About a year ago, we announced a hiatus on this project. Due to an outpouring of support, we pushed ourselves to continue, and over the last year, we're proud of the interviews and roundups we've been able to produce.

But as events in the United States have continued to escalate and conditions have grown more dire, it's clear that *IGD* does not have the capacity to meet the moment as a hub for grassroots reporting and journalism. In the face of this reality, we feel its important to be clear about our inability to continue, in the hopes that more people can push themselves to build and grow media projects and platforms.

We should all have a sober and clear-eyed view of what is happening. The current administration is attempting to consolidate extreme authoritarian power. People are being silenced and working-class people are being attacked. A police state is being constructed. Conditions are worsening. Inflation and prices are exploding and the entire country feels like it is slipping into dictatorship and economic collapse, as most people struggle to put food on the table.

While this reality is bleak, we are excited about the flood of new media projects taking off and reporting from the ground level and covering evolving social movements. We want to take a moment to shout out some of these projects and encourage you to support and follow them:

- It Could Happen Here
- Unraveled
- The Wreckage
- The Final Straw
- The Dugout
- The Beautiful Idea
- Live Like the World is Dying
- CrimethInc.
- TruthOut
- Feel the News
- Freedom News
- Green and Red Podcast
- SubMedia
- We Will Free Us
- Left Coast Right Watch

As corporations and the State consolidate news into fewer hands and the far-Right pushes to silence those who speak out, the need for dynamic and vibrant grassroots media that amplifies working-class voices and gives a platform to social movements is needed now more than ever. We hope those that enjoyed *IGD* over the years can help in constructing new infrastructure that can help meet our present moment.

Final Straw: The Implications of the State's War on Speech and Protest

October 5, 2025

Long-time radio show and podcast, *The Final Straw* speaks with an attorney about ongoing attacks on protest and mutual aid projects in Gaza.

This week, we're featuring two segments. First up, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, an lawyer with the National Lawyers Guild, speaks about the recent declarations of war by the Trump administration on anteefah, what has changed legally, what they might be telegraphing and smart ways to move forward in this tense atmosphere. Check out our recent chat with Mo about Knowing your Rights and Risks with the police, linked in our show notes, or learn more about their work at NLG.ORG

Then, A speaks briefly about supporting mutual aid efforts in Gaza. For more information, check out the recommended article on ItsGoingDown.org and some links in our show notes.

Photo by Spenser H on Unsplash

Zapatista Assemblies Denounce Threats and Intimidation in Recuperated Territories

October 1, 2025

Assembly of Zapatista Autonomous Government Collectives (A.C.G.A.Z) Common Governments

Chiapas, Mexico September 24th, 2025.

To the people of Mexico and the world
To the *compañeros* of the National Indigenous Congress
To national and international civil society
To the National and International Sixth
To human rights organizations
To alternative media
To the national and international press

Denunciation:

We strongly condemn the attack, harassment, and manipulation carried out by the three levels of bad government against the Zapatista support bases on the issue of recovered land.

We note the following events:

First: On April 22nd, May 12th, July 12th, and August 29th, 30 people from the municipality of Huixtán, headed by Emilio Bolom Álvarez, Miguel Bolom Palé, Miguel Vázquez Sántiz, and David Seferino Gómez, arrived, protected by the Federal Army and the municipal police of Ocosingo, at the town of Belén in the farming region of Dolores Hidalgo, Caracol 8, where our Zapatista support bases are living, in charge of collective work in the region and of work from a common *milpa* with our non-zapatista brothers and sisters. This land was recovered in 1994.

We tried to negotiate with them, but they clearly told us that the government had already given them the land and that they had the legal documents.

At this time, they threatened and harassed our *compañeros*, telling them to leave the land by any means. They tried to manipulate us by saying that if they came to an agreement with our *compañeros*, they would respect them. They destroyed our signs and measured the land.

Faced with these threats and by agreement of the assembly of Zapatista Autonomous Government Collectives (A.C.G.A.Z.), we agreed that we must withdraw because we must plan to defend ourselves.

Second: On September 18th, 20th, and 22nd, 15 people positioned themselves on the property. On September 20th, two Federal Army trucks, three Ocosingo municipal police trucks, and four State Attorney General trucks arrived again. They destroyed and burned the homes of the Zapatista support base authorities, stole corn, and those who stayed back continued to steal. We tried to negotiate again, but they never understood because the bad government had already formally given the land to them.

Third: We don't lie to the people of Mexico and the world that those lands were already paid for by the bad government since 1996, when Manuel Camacho Solís was alive. it's clear here that this is a plan of the three levels of bad governments because it has already been paid for, and why is it now handing over the land that has already been paid for? What the Fourth Transformation is seeking here is collision, confrontation, and war.

Our attempt to seek dialogue was in vain. We have often said that we don't want war, what we want is common life, but they are forcing us to defend ourselves.

It is clear that the Fourth Transformation is on the side of national and transnational landlords and businessmen. That is the true Fourth. Nothing is for for the poor people of Mexico.

This is what is happening, as if here in Mexico there is zero impunity, as if in Mexico the bad government is not in collusion with organized crime, as if here the bad system does not know the war of organized crime, as if here in Mexico there are not several sparks that can light a fire.

Photos and videos are in the hands of human rights organizations that prove that what we are now denouncing is true.

Compañeros of Mexico and the world:

Take care of yourselves. Maybe we'll still see each other, or maybe we won't. Maybe the last time we saw each other was at this last meeting. We'll be attentive and in touch, and we'll keep you informed. Hopefully, at that meeting at the Seedbed, you'll have understood everything we've said, that is, the search for a common life.

Brothers and sisters of the people of Mexico and the world, this is what there is, the plan of neoliberalism in Mexico against us. As we well said at the meeting at the Seedbed: today it's Palestine, tomorrow it will be us.

Yours,

Common Governments

Translated by Schools for Chiapas

Ayotzinapa and Palestine bleed on the same map

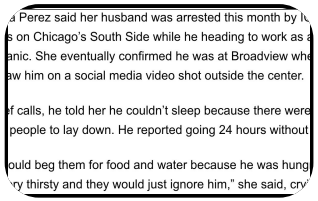
September 27, 2025

September 26, 2025, marks 11 years since the State attack on students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal School in Iguala, Guerrero, during which six people were killed, 25 wounded, and 43 students disappeared. The following is the transcript of a Spanish-language audio segment produced by Radio Cósmica Libre in collaboration with the efforts of Communicators for Palestine. It is based on information provided by Eduardo Ibañez from the Mexico City Encampment for the 43. It has been translated into English by Scott Campbell.

Mexico, September 26, 2014. Palestine, July 2014. Two dates that seem unrelated but that resonate with a shared echo.

That night in Iguala, 43 campesino students were uprooted from their dormitories, from their classrooms, from their dreams. That summer in Gaza, more than 2,000 Palestinian lives were taken in a matter of weeks by the military machinery of Israel. What connects a young normalista from Guerrero with a Palestinian girl who will never become a teenager? The answer is in the language of State violence, in the economy of death that connects

https://crimethinc.com/ChicagoBroad


Perez said her husband was arrested this month by I
s on Chicago's South Side while he heading to work as a
anic. She eventually confirmed he was at Broadview whe
w him on a social media video shot outside the center.
f calls, he told her he couldn't sleep because there were
people to lay down. He reported going 24 hours without
ould beg them for food and water because he was hung
ry thirsty and they would just ignore him," she said, cry

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 24

Last weekend, demonstrators in Peru clashed with riot police, displaying some of the same iconography as the "Gen Z" protesters who overthrew the government in Nepal two weeks ago. Resistance is contagious.

For background on the stakes of the struggle in Peru, you can consult this article we published in 2023:

https://crimethinc.com/Peru2023

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 24

If you pre-ordered the new Catharsis album, "Hope against Hope," do not fear, we will mail them out as soon as we are able. We did warn you that it was a preorder!

In the meantime, the music is available on bandcamp and various other platforms.

https://crimethinc.bandcamp.com/albu against-hope

Thank you! 🖤

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Oct 18

Today those in power weaponize the law against each other 🤣 But remember that both parties have been doing the same and continue to against those with no political or economic power.

PRISONS ARE PACKED FULL OF POOR PPL

0 15 25 899

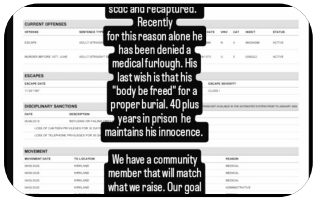
Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Oct 18

UPDATE:
UPDATE: $4,187 of 5K has been raised.

INNOCENT PPL ARE LEFT DYING IN AMERICAN PRISONS!

40 years later and all this innocent person is asking is that his body be freed after his death for a proper burial.

Community member will match what's raised


Recently
for this reason alone he has been denied a medical furlough. His last wish is that his "body be freed" for a proper burial. 40 plus years in prison he maintains his innocence.
We have a community member that will match what we raise. Our goal

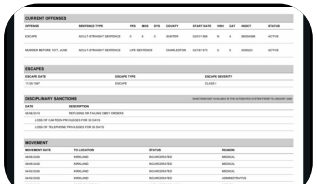
Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Oct 11

JLS member Sulaiman Abdullah Raheem request aid for burial expenses. He has less than 3 wks to live.

1987 Sulaiman escaped scdc & recaptured. His last wish is that his "body be freed" for a proper burial.

5k goal:

V*nmo @ arebelsworld or c*shapp $ arebelsworld
#MutualAid



0 51 51 4K

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Oct 8

The Alabama Solution a HBO doc that centers the voices of ppl on the inside exposing corruption and cruelty in Alabama's prisons. Thumbs up to filmmakers who actually listen to those on the inside who are breaking all the rules to be heard!

We need more works like this

11 106 227 12K

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Oct 14

Update: 3k has been reached. 2k to go. Help us give our Comrade a proper burial vs the prison industrial slave complex grave yard.

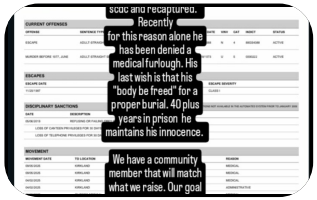
Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Oct 11

INNOCENT PPL ARE LEFT DYING IN AMERICAN PRISONS!

40 years later and all this innocent person is asking is that his body be freed after his death for a proper burial.

** This is the other part the public doesn't talk about.

Goal 5k. Community member will match what's raised


Recently
for this reason alone he has been denied a medical furlough. His last wish is that his "body be freed" for a proper burial. 40 plus years in prison he maintains his innocence.
We have a community member that will match what we raise. Our goal

1 42 43 2K

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -

protesters marched through the streets of Rome.

Another solidarity flotilla is on the way to Gaza right now, defying the blockade.

A general strike will take place in Italy tomorrow in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

Stop the genocide. Abolish the fascist ethnostate that is perpetrating it. Free Palestine.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 1

With the government shutting down, who will funnel our taxes to military contractors? Who will subsidize the billionaires? Who will tap our phones, raid our communities, deport our neighbors?

Unfortunately, the shutdown won't stop those activities of the state.

The real problem is that the shutdown doesn't go far enough. Make the shutdown comprehensive and permanent!

https://crimethinc.com/shutdown

"As anarchists, we've got a hunch that people can get along just fine without a government. We're convinced that everything the government does is either harmful and should be abolished outright (borders, prisons, armies, surveillance) or can be done better by groups of people working together freely (social welfare, preserving wilderness, coordinating production and distribution, collective self-defense)."

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 30

Mark these words:

If we let the fascists consolidate power in the US—if they manage to defeat the American people—the next stage will be ruinous war. Their brand of politics depends on always mobilizing against an enemy.

That is what happened in Russia under Putin.

Already, in 2022, we understood that the invasion of Ukraine represented a looming possible future for all of us. It would never have been possible for Putin to sacrifice hundreds of thousands on the altar of war if he had not spent the preceding decade crushing every social movement in Russia.

https://crimethinc.com/AntiwarRussia

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 29

The so-called "Gen Z" protests continue to resonate around the world. They broke out in Indonesia in August, overthrew the government of Nepal on September 9, and spread to Peru. Today, protests toppled the government of Madagascar.

To follow up our interview with Black Book Distro in Kathmandu, we have published an analysis from a Nepali journalist offering more context for the conditions that produced the revolution in Nepal and the horizons that are opening before it.

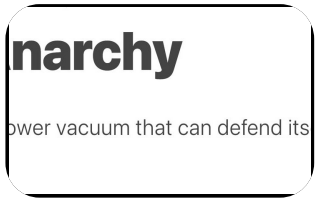
https://crimethinc.com/NepalRevoluti

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 27

Anarchism is the project of fostering relationships in which no one is able to systematically dominate or oppress anyone else because power is distributed evenly and cooperation is incentivized more than cutthroat competition.

It is the opposite of authoritarianism.

https://crimethinc.com/contradictionar



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 26

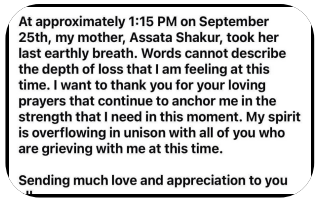
Rest in power, Assata Shakur. Your courageous life is an example to us all.

"I have been locked by the lawless.
Handcuffed by the haters.
Gagged by the greedy.
And, if i know any thing at all,
it's that a wall is just a wall
and nothing more at all.
It can be broken down.

I believe in living.
I believe in birth.
I believe in the sweat of love
and in the fire of truth.

And i believe that a lost ship,
steered by tired, seasick sailors,
can still be guided home
to port."

https://medium.com/@kestherlyana/a-poem-by-assata-shakur-788c4b2aa078


At approximately 1:15 PM on September 25th, my mother, Assata Shakur, took her last earthly breath. Words cannot describe the depth of loss that I am feeling at this time. I want to thank you for your loving prayers that continue to anchor me in the strength that I need in this moment. My spirit is overflowing in unison with all of you who are grieving with me at this time.
Sending much love and appreciation to you

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 26

It happened in Turkey to the Armenians.

It happened in Europe during the Holocaust.

It's happening in Gaza right now.

It's getting underway at ICE facilities around the US.

And if we don't put a stop to it, one day it could happen to you, too.

Dehumanization paves the way for ethnic cleansing.

the Mexican narco-state with Israeli necropolitics.

It is a long story. In Mexico, the rural normal schools emerged in the 1930s to educate the children of poor campesinos and to train teachers committed to their communities. In Palestine, the Nakba of 1948 inaugurated a life under occupation, dispossession, and forced displacement.

Two processes that appear distinct but that share the experience of peoples who were denied the right to exist in conditions of dignity. In 2014, the stories intersected. While Gaza suffered bombardments during July and August, students from the Ayotzinapa rural normal school went out into the streets of Mexico to protest in solidarity.

Just one month later, they themselves were victims of forced disappearance and murder in Iguala. The disappearance did not just erase bodies, it also condemned mothers, sisters, and wives to a life of interminable searching. State violence produces widows, orphans, mutilated families, communities condemned to permanent mourning.

State crime has no passport. Governments that kill in the name of security learn from one another. Necropolitics speaks many languages, but death always says the same thing: "You don't matter."

Ayotzinapa and Palestine are wounds that bleed on the same map. When governments are silent, peoples seek each other out. That is what happened days after the disappearance of the 43. Messages of support for the Mexican mothers and fathers arrived from Gaza. They were not diplomatic words; they were echoes of a grief that recognized its reflection on another continent.

In 2019, the Palestinian BDS organization sent a video to the Ayotzinapa parents on the anniversary of the disappearance. In the Zócalo of Mexico City, a popular tribunal was organized on Israel's role in the militarization of Latin America. There it was documented how the transport and communication equipment used in Iguala was of Israeli origin.

The peoples began to speak of businesses of blood, weapons, spyware, and training sold as security but that in reality sustained repressive regimes. Solidarity is not abstract. Campesina mothers from Guerrero and Palestinian women in refugee camps share the burden of sustaining their fractured communities.

Resistance is woven from the domestic, the scholastic, the communal, with bodies that carry both pain and dignity. If Gaza looked to Ayotzinapa and Ayotzinapa to Palestine, it was not out of romanticism, but because they recognized that the enemy is the same, the State that disappears and the empire that profits off death. If death were a business, Mexico and Israel would be majority partners. And, in fact, they are.

Pegasus is the clearest example. The Israeli spyware was used in Mexico to surveil journalists, activists, and human rights defenders, including the parents of the 43. Their lawyer, Bidulfo Rosales, was one of the victims.

The case of Tomás Zerón demonstrates transnational complicity. Zerón, architect of the so-called "historical truth," fabricated evidence, covered for those responsible, and tortured the accused. Today he lives protected in Israel, which refuses to extradite him.

They don't protect him out of compassion, but because Zerón knows too much about the arms contracts and about Pegasus. Digital surveillance is never neutral. Women journalists, woman human rights defenders, sexual dissidents, searching mothers, are the priority targets for espionage.

Patriarchal control is reinforced with occupation technology. The Mexican army, directly implicated in the disappearance of the normalistas, trained with Israeli forces. The National Guard, presented as a trustworthy institution, was also created with the advice and equipment from that country. Public officials such as Rosalinda Trujillo Marial boasted of their closeness with Israel while they authorized multimillion peso purchases of digital spyware. Israel exports occupation as a security model. Mexico buys it as a recipe for reinforcing a narco-state with a democratic façade.

The result is the same. Disposable lives. Subjugated peoples. Guaranteed impunity. Blood businesses. That is what the peoples call what the governments dress up as international cooperation. Pegasus in Mexico. Bombs in Gaza. Million-peso contracts in Tel Aviv. The bill is always paid with the bodies of the poor.

Faced with such impunity, one might expect silence. But what emerges is the opposite: resistance. And resistance does not need a visa. It travels from Guerrero to Gaza, from the fields to the neighborhoods, from the rural classrooms to the refugee camps.

The mothers and fathers of Ayotzinapa have become a symbol against forgetting. The Palestinian people, who have been resisting ongoing genocide for 77 years, are a model of dignity in the face of barbarism.

Mexico demands the extradition of Zerón. Israel blocks it. The UN condemns war crimes in Gaza. Western powers finance them.

Impunity is global. But so is solidarity. The fight against forgetting cannot be separated from those who bear its burden. It is women, searching mothers, Indigenous communities, displaced peoples who uphold memory and put their bodies on the front line. What would happen if the peoples of the South decided to break with the business of blood? What would happen if the struggles of Ayotzinapa and Palestine were not exceptions, but rather the start of a

global front against necropolitics? The 43 and Palestine are mirrors. They reflect back to us a world ruled by impunity.

But also the certainty that resistance is transnational. That the cry for justice knows no borders. Because they took them alive, we want them back alive. Because Palestine lives in every dignified struggle. And because memory is our most dangerous weapon.

In the case of Palestine, the demand is clear and urgent. That the Zionist State of Israel stop interfering in the case of Ayotzinapa. That it stop protecting Tomás Zerón and that it extradite him immediately so he may face Mexican justice. Because impunity cannot continue being an export commodity. In the case of Ayotzinapa, the demand is just as forceful. The return, alive, of the 43 normalistas and justice for the fallen in Iguala.

No speeches, no pretenses, no fabricated historical truths. Real justice, complete truth, comprehensive reparation, and punishment for those materially and intellectually responsible. Both struggles, that of Palestine and that of Ayotzinapa, are united by the same slogan.

That peoples cannot continue being merchandise on the market of death, nor the spoils of necropolitics. That solidarity among peoples becomes a wall much stronger than the walls of occupation and silence. To say justice for Ayotzinapa is to say justice for Palestine.

Telling the truth in Mexico is to also demand the truth in Gaza. Memory and dignity cannot be negotiated, they are defended, shouted out loud, and sown like seeds that sooner or later will blossom.

Because they took them alive, we want them back alive.

Because Palestine will be free and because justice knows no borders.

Infinite Gratitude, Infinite Resilience: A Message From MADR

September 25, 2025

Report from Mutual Aid Disaster Relief on autonomous mutual aid organizing in 2025.

It's been a long, full year already. Floods, typhoons, tornados, fires, and heat waves amplified by climate change are being compounded by the cutting of social services, the defunding and dismantling of FEMA and other disaster-focused organizations, inflation, the kidnapping of community members by ICE, violence against the unhoused, and the worsening genocide in Gaza.

Thanks to many people's generosity, we started the year with an unprecedented budget, much of it after Hurricanes Helene and Milton. That surge of support allowed us to move quickly: solar panels in consistently impacted areas, water treatment education and systems development, the establishment of work crew tool libraries, and survival supplies and groceries into impacted communities; standing with comrades in Tijuana, Oaxaca, Cairo, Gaza, and the Philippines; and helping people meet urgent needs from storms, displacement, and fascist violence.

We were able to support ongoing MADR survival programs and develop new programs to address needs we had identified through lessons learned over the last decade, such as programs focused on food sovereignty and disaster communications infrastructure, including a budding ham radio network! We were also able to work with partners to launch or sustain work that is aligned with the MADR mission, such as the Highlander Center and our collaboration with the Fire on the Mountain program; The Climate Mobilization and Dogbane Movement Hub and Retreat Center and our collaboration on water treatment and water and energy sustainability education workshops and builds; a new community-led MADR Search and Rescue (SAR) program initiative; and medic trainings and herbalist support for trauma care.

Now that those funds have been put to work, our accounts are lean again. To stay sustainable and ensure we are able to address needs during the current hurricane season, we need to slow down expenses for the time being. We'll continue honoring commitments and responding where we can, and within our means, but we're asking volunteers and partners to spend thoughtfully, intentionally, and with an intersectional movement mindset. When and where possible, we encourage volunteers to be creative while building resilience and autonomy within their communities and to build upon existing relationships and support networks while we rebuild MADR's shared resources.

If you would like to help us build the world we want to see and live in, and you're able, please make a donation today. As an all-volunteer network, every contribution directly fuels survival, resilience, and solidarity. If you have access to greater wealth and want to redistribute it, we'd love to connect about how your giving can meet urgent needs right now. Donate here and/or reach out to us at info@mutualaiddisasterrelief.org.

If donations are not where you can contribute, we're also always looking for people to help with fundraising, communications, and all the behind-the-scenes work that keeps this solidarity network alive. The hivemind is strong! Join us!

And, if you've put MADR resources to use in your community, please share photos, videos, or stories (with consent) with us so we can shout you out, amplify your work, and so others can see working models of resilience and how donations can translate into care and survival.

Infinite gratitude to everyone on the ground, driving groceries to hungry families, mucking out flooded homes, distributing air filters and masks, rebuilding roofs, building infrastructure for autonomy and survival, and treating people with love and dignity regardless of status. With or without money, you are not alone. We hope to always be the wind at your back.

Today, Donald Trump and other officials from his administration held a panel fearmongering about "Antifa," featuring an array of far-right grifters who have made a living on rage-baiting.

One participant, Jack Posobiec, noted that "Antifa" dates back to the Weimar Republic, explicitly acknowledging that the Trump administration is opposed to those who resisted the arrival of Adolf Hitler in Power.

They are attempting to demonize opposition to fascism because they wholeheartedly embrace fascism itself.

https://crimethinc.com/Safeguarding

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 8

The Israeli military is currently attacking the Thousand Madleens flotilla as they attempt to deliver much-needed aid to people in Gaza who are suffering famine as a consequence of the Israeli blockade.

Read this statement from one of the participants in the flotilla:

https://crimethinc.com/SailingforGaza

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 8

On October 4, in protest against the rigging of the municipal elections, demonstrators in Tbilisi tore down the gates of the presidential palace and stormed the courtyard.

For background on the stakes of the ongoing social movement against the Georgian government:

https://crimethinc.com/GeorgiaRevolt

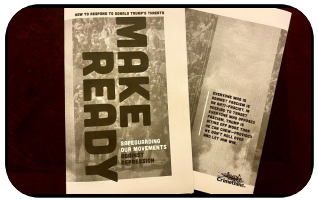
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 6

Donald Trump is trying to criminalize opposition to fascism. What are the real threats, and how can people prepare for them?

We've prepared a zine version of "Make Ready: Safeguarding Our Movements against Repression."

Please print these out and distribute them far and wide!

https://crimethinc.com/MakeReadyZir



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 5

Sailing for Gaza

http://crimethinc.com/SailingforGaza

On October 1, the Israeli military attacked the Sumud flotilla, a fleet of ships attempting to break the siege around Gaza in order to deliver much-needed humanitarian aid. People around the world protested in response. In Italy, millions of people flooded the streets across four consecutive days of demonstrations.

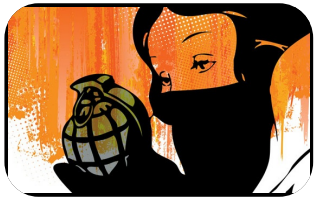
But another flotilla is right behind Sumud. We present a statement from one of the participants, explaining what they are doing, what the stakes are, and what they hope to accomplish.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 4

In the wake of Donald Trump's security directive aimed at criminalizing anti-fascism, we can expect to see federal agents use entrapment strategies to attempt to disrupt social movements.

Read about how earlier movements have experienced and dealt with entrapment:

https://crimethinc.com/entrapment



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 4

Today, a million people took the streets of Italy in solidarity with Palestine. Other protests occurred all around the world.

Meanwhile, another solidarity flotilla is headed for Gaza, determined to break the siege via which the Israeli government is inflicting famine as a means of genocide. You can follow their progress here:

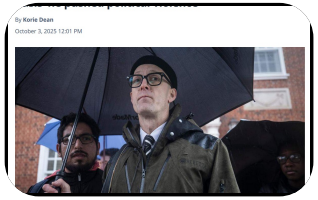
http://www.thousandmadleens.org/

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 2

Last night, in response to the Israeli military attacking the Sumud flotilla attempting to deliver aid to starving people in besieged Gaza, 10,000

administrative leave earlier in the week, saying an investigation found "no basis" to support that he had advocated political violence."

https://www.charlotteobserver.com/ne



It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Sep 30

"With Helene, there was something about the manifestation of Heaven on Earth the second time around that seemed to make it more expansive, with more sticking power. This time, Heaven wasn't just a fleeting moment, but it was an entire mycelium network, growing and healing together, spreading the pores of life that we refuse to give up on — like morels, growing and thriving in the ashes of what used to be. Instead of just a glimpse of Heaven's light this time, there was a constellation of vivid stars guiding the way."

https://rednecksrising.substack.com/p
saw-god-in-the-anarchists

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Sep 27

"Love took many shapes that morning, from humorous and righteous protest signs, to stuffed animals launched through the air, songs sung through gas masks, water poured over burning eyes, bodies pressed against moving vehicles, umbrellas and signs extended as shields, locked arms, and the comforting embrace of friends. All of these actions were manifestations of love bound up in refusal. We refuse to go about our normal lives, or to allow normalcy to exist, while our beloved neighbors are stolen. We are living in opposition to fascism, capitulation and complicity, however dangerously, and we are doing it the only way we can—together. "

https://organizingmythoughts.org/figh
for-our-stolen-neighbors-ice-tear-
gas-and-a-guitar-blown-open/

Fighting for Our Stolen Neighbors: ICE, Tear Gas and a Guitar Blown Open
"Being out here to demand what is right is the only way to stay human," says Jessica Darrow.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 14

From Indonesia and Nepal to Peru, Madagascar, and Morocco, the "Gen Z" revolt has assumed different forms on three continents.

We spoke with two feminist activists based in Casablanca to understand the events and significance of the "Gen Z 212" movement in Morocco.

https://crimethinc.com/GenZ212

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 10

Elbit Systems is Israel's largest weapons manufacturer. This analysis explores the year-long targeted direct action campaign that successfully shut down an office Elbit's subsidiary company KMC Systems opened in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

https://crimethinc.com/ElbitSystems

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 10

49 members of the Thousand Madleens freedom flotilla remain in Israeli custody for trying to deliver much-needed aid to starving people in Gaza.

Whatever Donald Trump says about a "ceasefire," the US and Israeli governments will continue to do violence to Gaza as long as they are able to.

The lives and liberation of Palestinians still depend on international solidarity.

https://crimethinc.com/SailingforGaza

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 9

No Kings, No Masters

A Call for Anti-Authoritarian Blocs at the October 18 "No Kings" Demonstrations

https://crimethinc.com/NoKings2025

This is a call for you—yes, you specifically—to organize an anti-authoritarian bloc in your community for the "No Kings" demonstrations on October 18.

Simply marching in the streets once every few months will not stop fascism. We have to draw people into concrete organizing and activity. No one else is going to do this for us.

Whether there are two of you or two hundred of you, this guide goes over what you can do.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Oct 9

In Solidarity,

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief

Civil Liberties Defense Center on Trump's Push to Designate Domestic Groups and Ideologies as Terrorism

September 25, 2025

Report from the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) on moves by the Trump administration to attack left-wing groups and ideologies as domestic terrorism.

Yesterday the Trump regime signed yet another executive order that plainly states what many of us have known for a while now—that the cabal currently in power are unabashed fascists. Donald Trump declared that those opposed to fascism, those who are anti-fascist in this county — a country that has fought wars against fascism — are now labeled as "domestic terrorists" by this current government — in essence, enemies of the state. Trump and his minions do not have the constitutional or statutory authority to create a terrorist designation pertaining to an amorphous political belief. Period. The First Amendment continues to protect freedom of speech and association, and would thus prevent any Congressional attempt to enact a law that would allow the US government to designate US groups as terrorist organizations based simply upon their political activities. But, as we know with this regime, there is the law as it has existed for over 100 years, and then there is their attack on the law.

This EO targets "Antifa" which is obviously short for "antifascist." Antifascists are opposed to fascists. Fascism rejects democracy. Fascists sign executive orders (no democratic process involved) that seek to malign or punish their political opponents, because that is the only way they can take more control from the people in a democratic country. Fascists attempt to undermine democratic elections, erase actual history, and manipulate words to falsely justify their propaganda. This EO is another example of Trump's war of words — an attempt to recreate reality in order to solidify a fascist dictatorship.

Antifa is not an organization or an "enterprise." There are no "members." It is a social movement opposed to fascism, similar to feminism or anti-racism — not a single group or entity. One of our trial experts explained fascism thusly:

"Fascism may be defined as a form of political behavior marked by obsessive preoccupation with community decline, humiliation, or victimhood and by compensatory cults of unity, energy, and purity, in which a mass-based party of committed nationalist militants, working in uneasy, but effective collaboration with traditional beliefs, abandons democratic liberties and pursues with redemptive violence and without ethical or legal constraints, goals of internal cleansing and external expansion."

The majority of Americans hold antifascist political beliefs. Those beliefs, opinions, and associations are the foundations of US First Amendment constitutional safeguards. Antifascist beliefs are also closely intertwined with anti-racist beliefs. During the 1930's Spanish Civil War, many Americans went to fight fascists (including my great-uncle). As the Smithsonian explains in "A Brief History of Anti-Fascism," about one of these American antifascists:

"Eluard Luchell McDaniels traveled across the Atlantic in 1937 to fight fascists in the Spanish Civil War, where he became known as 'El Fantastico' for his prowess with a grenade. As a platoon sergeant with the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigades, the 25-year-old African American from Mississippi commanded white troops and led them into battle against the forces of General Franco, men who saw him as less than human. It might seem strange for a Black man to go to such lengths for the chance to fight in a white man's war so far from home — wasn't there enough racism to fight in the United States? — but McDaniels was convinced that anti-fascism and anti-racism were one and the same. 'I saw the invaders of Spain [were] the same people I've been fighting all my life,' Historian Peter Carroll quotes McDaniels as saying. 'I've seen lynching and starvation, and I know my people's enemies.' McDaniels was not alone in seeing anti-fascism and anti-racism as intrinsically connected; the anti-fascists of today are heirs to almost a century of struggle against racism."

When Hitler's fascist regime and the Axis powers seized control of Germany, other global countries, including the US, France, UK, USSR, and many others, became the Allies, who ultimately won that war and stuffed fascism back down into the dark evil place where it has mostly slumbered. It may take similar global action to stop the US from spiraling into full-blown fascism, and it could take generations to restore democracy if it is lost.

Weak political leaders must also target their political opponents' funding in order to maintain fake power (think political ads, campaign staff, political signs, etc.). Because antifascist *beliefs* are not an organization or enterprise, and because a *belief* does not have "members," it is also obvious that "Antifa" is not funded. It never has been. It doesn't have a mailbox or bank account or hierarchy. Clearly the Trump fascist regime wants to go after George Soros, a billionaire liberal philanthropist, and is using this as an obvious weapon to actually go after democrat-leaning funding sources, which are in fact the regime's political opponents. The goal is to target and destroy the funding of the regime's political opponents; money they will use to oppose fascist authoritarians and their kind within the democratic electoral process. A truly fair election will likely remove the fascist dictator by overwhelming popular vote — so of course this fascist regime is also targeting the electoral system. To date, Soros has not sent a check to "Antifa."

The Trump regime tried labeling antifascists as domestic terrorists in a 2017 EO as well, and that failed. Trump's own FBI director said that enforcing that EO would be difficult because antifa is an ideology, not an organization, and it lacks the hierarchical structure that would usually be required to designate it as a federal terror group. Nothing has changed within the US Constitution or our system of laws, or the facts about antifascists in the U.S. during this intervening time period.

The wording of this EO is what we call in lawyer-talk "sloppy." For instance, the EO references "material support" provided by anyone "claiming to act on behalf of Antifa" to "any and all illegal operations — especially those involving terrorist actions" — without even citing to the federal material support statute, 18 U.S.C. 2339A. The existing legal precedent regarding "material support" comes from prosecutions related to material support of *FOREIGN* terrorist organizations (and a few states with domestic material support statutes). The US Secretary of State is authorized to designate *foreign* groups as "foreign terrorist organizations" (FTOs). No congressional approval is needed for the Secretary to make this designation, but they must inform Congress seven days prior to doing so. Once designated, it is illegal under US law to give money to an FTO — and, significant to the Trump regime, the US could also freeze any assets held by members of the designated group in a US bank, and members could be threatened with sanctions.

TO BE CLEAR, THERE IS NO EQUIVALENT DOMESTIC TERRORISM LAW, which is why this Trump declaration is just bullshit without legal authority. There is no federal statute that would allow him to designate a domestic, US-based group as a terrorist organization. In part, this is because of the serious First Amendment concerns that would obviously result. Constitutional law scholars all agree that this "declaration" has no legal impact.

In the 2010 US Supreme Court case *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*, 561 US 1 (2010), a case involving foreign organizations, Justice John Roberts ruled that attempts to criminalize support for designated *domestic* terrorist groups would not "survive First Amendment scrutiny," and "Congress could [not] extend the same prohibition on material support at issue [in this case regarding a foreign org] to domestic organizations." Will Roberts overrule himself? Not likely....

Holder and the First Amendment remain the law of the land, and this executive order is flagrantly unconstitutional. It doesn't stand a chance of passing legal muster in a legitimate courtroom.

But that doesn't prevent this EO from causing harm to Americans until the judicial branch of government finds it to be unconstitutional and illegal. The Trump regime will likely use this EO to increase surveillance and criminalization of its adversaries (increasingly similar to Putin's Russia, where political opponents are murdered in prisons). They may attempt to use it to target, threaten, and punish people who openly protest the regime's policies and actions. When the FBI has carried out previous domestic terrorism investigations against neo-Nazi groups like the Base and Atomwaffen Division, US prosecutors used criminal enterprise laws like RICO. We've seen an uptick in the State's use of RICO to target political expression — *e.g.* the Atlanta Cop City cases, where a judge recently tossed out the abusive and illegal use of RICO against activists.

The regime may use this designation to place the military in US cities to enforce the will of the dictator, and justify it as "fighting antifa protests." To be clear, the protests happening around the country are not Antifa protests. They are the American people standing up to disgusting, cowardly, racist, ignorant executive branch power. No matter what the new bullshit of the day is, know that CLDC will be there to defend you in court if needed. We offer pro bono legal representation for people who are targeted for their political activism and constitutionally protected activities. We have lots of know your rights and risks legal resources too—even if you think your rights will be trampled upon, you still need to assert them in order to be able to raise them in Court. It's critically important for Americans to continue to fight against fascism and to defend our imperfect democracy.

Lauren Regan is the founder and Director of Litigation & Advocacy at the Civil Liberties Defense Center. More about their work can be found at www.cldc.org.

Final Straw: The End of the Atlanta Stop Cop City RICO 61 Case?

September 19, 2025

Long-running anarchist radio and podcast show *The Final Straw* speaks with Nolan Huber of the *Atlanta Community Press Collective* about the ongoing Stop Cop City trial.

This week, we spoke with Nolan Huber of the Atlanta Community Press Collective about recent developments in the case of 61 people facing RICO indictments and other charges in relation to the movement to Stop Cop City, an urban police training center built in south Atlanta's Weelaunee forest. For the hour we talk about the case, last week's dismissal of racketeering and arson indictments and other recent victories for the Defend The Forest movement.

You can hear past interviews in our archives by clicking the tag for Stop Cop City and see ACPC's coverage of the case and other local topics at ATLPressCollective.com. You can learn more about *A City In The Forest*, the film Nolan's working on, at https://levomel.com/acitf or following @ACityInTheForest on Instagram. We also brought up support for Jack Mazurek, more info can be found at FreeJack.Co

Also, if you haven't checked out Outlaw Podcast, they had a recent interview with NLG lawyer Xavier de Janon & defendant Peatmoss on

IGD: 2015 – 2025
About a year ago, we announced a hiatus on this project. Due to an outpouring of support, we pushed ourselves to continue, and over the last...

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 18

"Eric King has seen what hell looks like during his time in federal custody."

https://truthout.org/articles/writer-who-survived-adx-supermax-prison-describes-how-it-entombs-people/

Writer Who Survived ADX Supermax Prison Describes How It "Entombs" People
Having survived the most restrictive supermax prison in the country on a trumped-up charge, Eric King tells what he saw.

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 14

"After federal agents deployed tear gas near a Chicago elementary school, community members have banded together to ensure children can come and go safely as the Trump administration's immigration crackdown continues in the city.

Now, a new line of protection has surrounded students in the Chicago Public Schools system. Armed with whistles and know-your-rights pamphlets, these community volunteers call themselves "guardian angels." Together, they secure the perimeters of elementary, middle and high schools across the city.

When the call for volunteers went out, 500 community members stepped up, filling more than 1,000 shifts at nearly 100 schools on Chicago's northwest side. The goal is to ensure students can attend class for an education without fear of a confrontation with ICE.

This "guardian angel" movement has continued to grow, and volunteers have shown up in droves daily at school pick-up and drop-off locations."

https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/feds-tear-gas-chicago-school/

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 9

"This week, our colleague Dr. Mark Bray has come under attack by Turning Point USA's Rutgers chapter for his public scholarship. Their campaign to have Dr. Bray fired has resulted in doxxing and death threats that extended to his partner, Dr. Yesenia Barragan, also our colleague, forcing Drs. Barragan and Bray to leave their home for their safety and that of their children. Rutgers AAUP-AFT and the Rutgers Adjunct Faculty Union condemn this campaign and stand in solidarity with our valued colleagues."

https://rutgersaaup.org/defending-our-colleagues-from-attacks-by-the-rutgers-chapter-of-turning-point-usa/

RUTGERS AAUP-AFT

Defending Our Colleagues from Attacks by the Rutgers Chapter of Turning Point USA - Rutgers AAUP-AFT
This week, our colleague Dr. Mark Bray has come under attack by Turning Point USA's Rutgers chapter for his public scholarship. Their camp...

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 8

"On Saturday, federal agents shot Marimar "La Maggie" Martinez five to seven times in Brighton Park. Yesterday, she walked out of the hospital—bandaged, limping, but alive—flanked by her lawyer, Christopher Parente, and a crowd chanting her name.

That image—a Latina activist standing upright after federal bullets tore through her car and body—belongs to a long ledger of American overreach. CBP called it an "ambush." Her community calls it what it looks like: an execution that failed.

The government's story crumbles on contact. Prosecutors claim Martinez rammed a Border Patrol SUV and charged an agent. But Parente told a federal judge he has the body-cam footage, and it shows the opposite: a CBP agent taunting her—"Do something, bitch"—before steering his unmarked vehicle into hers and opening fire. Seven bullets later, Martinez drove herself a mile to a repair shop for help.

That footage exists. It's time we all see it."

https://migrantinsider.com/p/chicago-latina-shot-by-border-patrol

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 5

"If you're here for my must-reads list, you can find that at the top. If you're here for a rundown of Trump's recent escalations in Chicago, scroll down."

https://organizingmythoughts.org/mus and-the-war-on-chicago/

Must-Reads and the War on Chicago
"Chicagoans will not be a conquered people."

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 5

"The Department of Homeland Security blatantly lied about the victim of a recent shooting committed by an ICE agent during an immigration arrest in Chicago."

https://newrepublic.com/post/201297/ shot-man-no-criminal-record

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 3

"UNC-Chapel Hill on Friday reinstated a professor it placed on

libre determinación y la autonomía en este caso.

Todo esto dicho por las autoridades obviamente dentro de la misma maraña que cede la bolita de la responsabilidad a otras instancias, nos llevó a una parte del proceso que, si bien es cierto que se ignoró toda esta perspectiva intercultural que ahora se señala, el hacerlo no nos garantiza que esta vez resulte de forma favorable para nuestro hermano Miguel Peralta.

Un estudio serio del expediente resultaría sin duda en la libertad absoluta de Miguel, sin embargo, conocemos el poder político de los responsables de la persecución y criminalización en Eloxochitlán: la familia caciquil-partidista Zepeda, específicamente el cacique máximo y ex presidente municipal Manuel Zepeda Cortes y su hija Elisa Zepeda Lagunas, actualmente diputada por Morena en el Congreso del Estado de Oaxaca. Sabemos la influencia que esta última tiene en los juzgados y tribunales, sabemos de las relaciones que mantiene con el gobernador del estado de Oaxaca, Salomón Jara, con la presidenta de la república, Claudia Sheinbaum y ahora incluso con el nuevo presidente de la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, Hugo Aguilar Ortiz. Sabemos que, independientemente del partido político que esté en el poder y su discurso, el Estado busca reprimir la autodeterminación de las comunidades indígenas.

Además del caso de Miguel Peralta, existen muchas órdenes de aprensión en contra de más de 50 integrantes de la comunidad de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, entre ellas Martha Betanzos y Martín Peralta (madre y hermano de Miguel), todas perpetradas por la misma familia caciquil y respaldadas por el sistema nefasto de justicia. No les ha bastado con estar en puestos de poder y utilizarlos para someter a la comunidad, quieren seguir manteniendo a familias enteras desplazadas y bajo la angustia de un día ser detenidas.

El pasado mes de abril, David Peralta, hermano menor de Miguel y fotoperiodista de la localidad, se encontraba ejerciendo su labor de documentación a través del registro fotográfico de la explotación y saqueo de los recursos naturales de la comunidad por la empresa familiar de los Zepeda, David fue atacado y amenazado por Manuel Zepeda y su personal, quienes le robaron sus herramientas de trabajo y lo persiguieron violentamente argumentando que se encontraba en "propiedad privada", lo que era totalmente falso.

Por todo esto les convocamos a solidarizarse y sumarse a la Jornada de Agitación por la Libertad Absoluta de Miguel Peralta Betanzos. Sugerimos realizarse actividades entre los meses de septiembre a noviembre de este año 2025, entiéndase agitación y acción en sus diversas formas y modalidades, con lo que la propia imaginación y herramientas nos permita, dibujos, poemas, música, mantas, gráfica, danza, cartas, eventos y acciones, todo en solidaridad con Miguel Peralta y la comunidad de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, exigiendo una vez más su LIBERTAD ABSOLUTA. Así mismo, les invitamos a estar atentes a las acciones próximas y difundir el caso por todos los medios posibles. Es un momento crucial para que la Justicia del Estado dicte sentencia de libertad absoluta a Miguel Peralta y él pueda volver a caminar por las calles, senderos, montañas, cañones y cafetales de su comunidad.

¡Alto a la persecución de las comunidades originarias!

¡Libertad absoluta para Miguel Peralta!

¡Libertad y Justicia para Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón!

¡Ni condenadxs! ¡Ni perseguidxs!

Grupo de Apoyo en Solidaridad con Miguel Peralta

Amigxs de Miguel Peralta y personas solidarias con la comunidad de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

Comparte tus propuestas y/o acciones a:

Correo: yalibreselox@riseup.net

FB: Libres Ya

IG: Libres.ya

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social
• Oct 18

About a year ago, we announced a hiatus on this project. Due to an outpouring of support, we pushed ourselves to continue, and over the last year, we're proud of the interviews and roundups we've been able to produce.

But as events in the United States have continued to escalate and conditions have grown more dire, it's clear that IGD does not have the capacity to meet the moment as a hub for grassroots reporting and journalism. In the face of this reality, we feel its important to be clear about our inability to continue, in the hopes that more people can push themselves to build and grow media projects and platforms.

We should all have a sober and clear-eyed view of what is happening. The current administration is attempting to consolidate extreme authoritarian power. People are being silenced and working-class people are being attacked. A police state is being constructed. Conditions are worsening. Inflation and prices are exploding and the entire country feels like it is slipping into dictatorship and economic collapse, as most people struggle to put food on the table.

As corporations and the State consolidate news into fewer hands and the far-Right pushes to silence those who speak out, the need for dynamic and vibrant grassroots media that amplifies working-class voices and gives a platform to social movements is needed now more than ever. We hope those that enjoyed IGD over the years can help in constructing new infrastructure that can help meet our present moment.

https://itsgoingdown.org/igd-2015-2025/

the Stop Cop City RICO 61. Check out this and past episodes of this great, anti-repression podcast. Here are some notes for following up from this episode:

- Follow Fire Ant Movement Defense on Instagram @fireantmovementdefense for updates and info on showing up to support in person in Atlanta.
- Pre-Trial Motion Press Release
- Donate to support the RICO 61

Photo via Unicorn Riot

The Dugout: Reflecting on One Year of Trump 2.0: A Black Anarchist Reflection

September 19, 2025

***The Dugout* offers an analysis and reflection on the opening of the second Trump administration.**

Listen and Download **HERE**

It's been a year since Trump's return to the White House. We look at the chaos of his second term —from attacks on birthright citizenship to sweeping emergency powers and foreign policy shocks. We break down the fallout at home: labor pushback, a fractured left, and the rise of fascist movements. Most of all, we ask what resilience, solidarity, and new forms of anti-fascist organizing look like in this moment.

Stay connected with *The Dugout!* Follow us for updates, exclusive content, and more:

🔗 Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dugou

🔗 Substack: https://tdugout.substack.com/

🔗 YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@thedu

🔗 Patreon: https://www.patreon.com/TheDug

🔗 Website: https://bio.site/thedugoutpodcast

🔗 Watch Prince Shakur on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel

Photo by Mitchel Lensink on Unsplash

War At Ground Level: A Discussion About Experiencing the War in Ukraine

September 19, 2025

The war in Ukraine is often, like many conflicts, discussed through the lens of foreign policy and the interests of these entities that we call states. This is not the framing that we simply inherit from media, it is one that the Left globally has embraced just as thoroughly as liberals and conservatives. Discussions become echoes of the Cold War, where massive power blocks collide in some geopolitical game involving huge historical projects.

There are myriad issues with this framing, but we will focus on just one in this episode. This framing has a tragic side effect, it has the tendency to disappear people on the ground living through conflict, and often abandoning them as a result. It has led some on the Left to support the worst authoritarians, right-wing religious extremists, and genocidaires, all while abandoning people fighting authoritarianism repeatedly, merely because the states that supports the regime they are fighting are "anti-American".

We want to have a different discussion about war, and about Ukraine; a discussion about what it means to be an anarchist living in a place actively under invasion, facing existential threats, and the threat of immanent arrest or death if you lose. We are joined by Anton from the Solidarity Collectives to talk about the war, how life continues in a warzone, what the war has meant for the anarchist community in Ukraine and the wider region, and how a movement can not just survive, but also actively engage in the situation around them, against all odds.

You can follow the work of Solidarity Collectives here:

- https://www.solidaritycollectiv
- https://bsky.app/profile/solcol

Photo by Jade Koroliuk on Unsplash

Final Straw: Strengthening Resistance To DC Cop Surge Through Mutual Aid

September 19, 2025

Long-running anarchist radio and podcast show *The Final Straw* speaks with a mutual aid group in Washington DC.

This week, we're featuring an interview with Shannon, one half of the mutual aid project operating in Washington DC known as Remora House. For the hour we talk about Remora House, the impact on houseless and non-citizen communities has been impacted by the Trump Administration's crack down and sending in of troops to DC and some ideas on strengthening the resistance as the feds and national guard are deployed into our neighborhoods to break up our communities and our resolve

- Remora House Transcript
- Remora House PDF (Unimposed)
- Remora House Zine (Imposed PDF)

Links from Shannon:

- Remora House Linktree: https://linktr.ee/remo
- Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid (MSMA): https://www.dcmigrantmutual
- Critical Exposure: https://criticalexposure.org/
- Black Swan Academy: https://www.blackswanacadem
- FTP Mutual Aid: https://linktr.ee/FeedThePeopl
- Food Not Bombs DC: https://linktr.ee/foodnotbomb
- Ward 2 Mutual Aid: https://linktr.ee/w2ma

Links from Sima Lee:

- MXGM DC: https://freethelandmxgm.org/v chapter/
- DC Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression: https://www.dcaarpr.org/
- 411 Collective: https://linktr.ee/411collective
- Pan African Community Action: https://www.pacapower.org/
- Peace House DC: http://www.peacehousedc.org/

Then you'll hear Parias of Athens from the June 2025 episode of B(A)DNews podcast. It's a chat with participants in a project called Research Critique about the distraction of the Greek public from media coverage of the deadly Tempi train disaster by a heavy dose of culture war discourse about lawlessness on University campuses and social decay. The rail accident was caused by negligence and understaffing under the neoliberal New Democracy regime, killing 57 and injuring nearly 200 and led to heated demonstrations for months more than a year to follow. You can hear the full interview by finding B(A)D News #92 on the website a-radio-network.org or in our shownotes.

Freedom for the Prisoners from San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas

September 13, 2025

The text below provides an overview of the case of five imprisoned Tzeltal land defenders from San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas, and how they can be supported during a crucial moment in the fight for their freedom.

The Context

San Juan Cancuc is an Indigenous Tzeltal municipality in the highlands of Chiapas located about halfway between the popular tourist destinations of San Cristóbal de Las Casas and the Cascadas de Agua Azul. For more than 20 years, the federal and state governments have been attempting to "develop" the region via the construction of a superhighway, called the Highway of Cultures. This highway would connect the coast of Chiapas in the west - where the Interoceanic Corridor will pass - with the highlands and jungle regions of the east - where they Maya Train will pass. With neoliberal development comes militarization, and attempts have been underway to construct a National Guard base near San Juan Cancuc. Since coming to power in 2018, the MORENA party has accelerated these projects.

The proposed Highway of Cultures is to pass through San Juan Cancuc and the State has put pressure on the municipality to agree to the construction - including withholding social programs. In repeated community assemblies, the residents of the municipality and neighboring communities have rejected both construction of the superhighway and the National Guard base.

The Case

Within this context, at 5 AM on the morning of May 29, 2022, residents of San Juan Cancuc found a municipal police officer drunk and handed him over to other officers. At 10 AM, this officer was found dead on a sidewalk. A few hours later, three of the people who handed the drunk cop over to his colleagues, Manuel Sántiz Cruz, Agustín Pérez Domínguez, and Juan Velasco Aguilar, were arrested for possession of marijuana. Other residents came to testify as to their innocence.

The possession charges against the three were dropped two days later. Yet upon being released, they were immediately arrested again and charged with homicide in the death of the cop. Two people who came to testify in their support were also arrested and charged: Agustín Pérez Velasco and Martín Pérez Domínguez. The state claims the five men kicked the cop to death as his colleagues watched, when in reality, the cop was handed over to other cops and by all indications he was killed by his colleagues. In May 2023, a judge ruled that all five were guilty of homicide and gave each a sentence of 25 years in prison. On appeal, their sentences were reduced to 18.5 years. They are currently held in the State Center for Social Reintegration for Convicts (CERSS) Number 5 in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

The Politics

The case of the San Juan Cancuc 5 is understood as serving two purposes for the State. One is that it pins the killing of a cop on those who are not also cops, and two, it punishes the community - of which all five are active members - for its opposition to neoliberal development projects.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on May 15, 2025, issued a report on the San Juan Cancuc 5 that states they were detained for their political work and calls for their immediate release.

> The arrests of the five individuals were due to their activism as members of the human rights committee, specifically in a context where State officials are alleged to systematically engage in the criminalization of human rights defenders and defenders of land and territory in Chiapas (7).
>
> The Working Group considers that, taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the appropriate remedy would be to release the five individuals immediately and accord them an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law (14).

In a joint statement on July 23, 2025, seven international human rights groups reaffirmed the Working Group's findings and called for the immediate release of the five:

> Furthermore, the Working Group recognizes the five convicted men as human rights defenders and considers that their criminalization is precisely due to their work in defense of land and territory and to the fact that they belong to the Tzeltal ethnic group, discrimination that this case, taking it into account does not guarantee that this time it will result in a favorable decision for our compañero Miguel Peralta.
>
> A serious study of the case file would undoubtedly result in the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta. However, we know the political power of those responsible for the persecution and criminalization in Eloxochitlán: the cacique-political party family of Zepeda, specifically the head cacique and ex-municipal president, Manuel Zepeda Cortes, and his daughter, Elisa Zepeda Lagunas, who is currently a member of the state congress in Oaxaca for the political party MORENA. We know the influence that Elisa Zepeda has in the courts and tribunals. We know the relations that she maintains with the governor of the state of Oaxaca, Salomón Jara, with the president of the republic, Claudia Sheinbaum, and now even with the new president of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Hugo Aguilar Ortiz. We know that, regardless of the political party in power and the discourse they maintain, the state constantly seeks to repress the self-determination of Indigenous communities.
>
> In addition to the case of Miguel Peralta, there are active arrest warrants for more than 50 members of the community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, among them Martha Betanzos and Martin Peralta (mother and brother of Miguel). All of these orders have been perpetrated by the same cacique family and backed up by the nefarious system of justice. It has not been enough for the Zepeda family to hold positions of power and use them to subjugate the community; they want to continue keeping entire families displaced and living in fear of one day being arrested.
>
> In April of this year, David Peralta, the younger brother of Miguel Peralta and a photojournalist in the community, was taking photos of the exploitation and plunder of the natural resources carried out by the Zepeda family business, when he was attacked and threatened by Manuel Zepeda and one of his workers. David was robbed of his photography equipment, physically attacked, and accused of being on private property. This is totally false.
>
> For all of the above, we call on everyone to show their solidarity and participate in these months of agitation for the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta. We encourage people to carry out activities between the months of September and November of this year 2025, including agitation and action in its various forms and modalities, using whatever imagination and tools we have at our disposal: drawings, poems, music, banners, graphics, dance, letters, events, and actions. We also invite folks to be attentive to coming actions, and to disseminate information about the case by all means possible. It is a crucial moment for the state to once and for all order the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta so that he can return to walk the streets, pathways, mountains, canyons, and coffee fields of his community.
>
> End the political persecution against Indigenous people!
>
> Absolute freedom for Miguel Peralta!
>
> Freedom and justice for Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón!
>
> Neither condemned, nor persecuted!
>
> Support Group in Solidarity with Miguel Peralta
>
> Friends of Miguel Peralta and People in Solidarity with the Community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón
>
> Share your proposals and/or actions at:
>
> Email: valibreselox@riseup.net
>
> FB: Libres Ya
>
> IG: Libres.ya

Llamado a la Agitación por la Libertad Absoluta de Miguel Peralta y el pueblo de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

A los medios libres

A lxs compañerxs anarquistas, libres y autónomxs

A las colectivas y colectivos de gráfica y distintas expresiones artísticas

Desde hace más de 10 años la situación que se vive en el pueblo de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, en la sierra mazateca de Oaxaca, México, ha llamado la atención de quienes asumimos la autonomía de los pueblos y la defensa de territorio como algo legítimo y necesario.

Desde hace más de una década hemos sido testigxs de la lucha incansable del pueblo mazateco contra los poderes locales que se refuerzan como caciques y como parte de la estructura gubernamental quienes no han cesado tampoco en el robo y el asalto a la comunidad. Dentro de esa lucha nuestro hermano Miguel Peralta, mazateco, anarquista y defensor comunitario, ha sido uno de lxs muchxs que ha recibido duramente la represión. Pasó casi 5 años preso en el penal de Cuicatlán y actualmente se encuentra perseguido y alejado de su familia su territorio y su comunidad.

Si bien no es el único caso del pueblo, su defensa legal ha tenido un camino distinto al del resto de lxs compañerxs perseguidxs. Hoy nos encontramos en un momento crítico en la lucha por la libertad absoluta de Miguel Peralta. Tras la llegada del caso a la Suprema Corte de Justicia en el pasado 2023, y con una posibilidad anulada de poder poner fin a la persecución política y otorgarle su libertad plena, la Suprema Corte de Justicia se limitó a emitir una resolución en noviembre de 2024 en el que el caso fue devuelto al Primer Tribunal Colegiado de Oaxaca, limitándose únicamente hacer recomendaciones vagas a dicho tribunal bajo el argumento de "revisar el caso con una perspectiva intercultural y tomando en cuenta especificidades culturales de la comunidad indígena mazateca de Eloxochitlán", así mismo, recomendó estudiar si se habían respetado los derechos a la

was true: cities where border patrol launched large repatriation raids (like L.A.) had overall lower wages and higher unemployment throughout the Depression.

The raids also were one of many repressive tactics used to quell the wave of multiracial labor organizing taking place on California farms, and this union busting may have been one reason wages were lower in areas where raids were widespread. Mexican agricultural workers, alongside Filipino workers and white Dust Bowl migrants, founded the Communist-aligned, multiracial Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union in 1929, organizing massive strikes in 1933 and 1934, including the Cotton Strike, which was the largest Agricultural strike in US history. Workers demanded ice and clean drinking water, outhouses, raises, picking sacks, and compensation for injured workers on lettuce, melon, cherry, berry, pear, and pea farms. Striking workers were attacked and murdered by members of the Associated Farmers, a fascist vigilante group who collaborated with local prosecutors to have strike leaders arrested under the Criminal Syndicalism Law. The brutal repression of workers' rights in the fields worked in symphony with the violent border patrol raids on homes and communities—a reminder that current calls for "American jobs" are not only nativist but also a cudgel for keeping all workers under the thumb of capital.

We hope you find this issue of *TOS* interesting and useful. As always, we invite you to send us any thoughts, analysis, ideas, and suggestions you have in response to the contents of the newsletter. We're always excited to receive your essays, stories, poetry, art, illustrations, and anything else you want to share. Unfortunately, MDOC now blocks *TOS* issues that contain writing by Michigan prisoners, so we can't include these writings here. But we would love to hear from you anyway, and we're always looking for suggestions for themes for future issues and topics for future interviews as well. Be sure to share this issue with friends.

With respect and solidarity,

MAPS

Photo by Hédi Benyounes on Unsplash

Announcing: Anathema Volume 11 Issue 1

September 1, 2025

Announcing a new issue of *Anathema*, a Philadelphia-based anarchist periodical.

Volume 11 Issue 1 (PDF for reading 8.5×11)

Volume 11 Issue 1 (PDF for printing 11×17)

In this issue:

- What Went Down
- Ins & Outs
- Leadership
- Is It Fascism?
- Ten Years Of Anti-Gentrification
- Ben Morea Talk Reportback
- Anarchist Muay Thai
- The Moon Is Down Review

Photo by Fredy Martinez on Unsplash

Call for Agitation for the Absolute Freedom of Miguel Peralta and the Community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

August 31, 2025

Communique from the support group of Miguel Peralta calling for solidarity actions and agitation during the months of September-November of this year.

To the Independent Media

To the Anarchist and Autonomous Individuals, Collectives, and Movements

To the Art Collectives and Different Artistic Expressions

For more than ten years, the situation in the community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, in the Sierra Mazateca de Oaxaca, Mexico, has drawn the attention of those who believe in the autonomy of Indigenous communities and the defense of territory as something legitimate and necessary.

For more than a decade we have witnessed the tireless struggle of the Mazatec people against local power holders—caciques and officials of the governmental apparatus—who have not ceased in their assault on the community and theft of the natural resources. Within this struggle, our compañero Miguel Peralta—Mazatec anarchist and community organizer—has been one of the many community members who has faced stiff state repression. He was imprisoned in Cuicatlán, Oaxaca, for nearly five years and is currently being persecuted by the state, separated from his family, his territory, and his community.

Although Miguel Peralta is not the only case of political persecution in the community, his legal defense and judicial process have taken a different pathway than the rest of the persecuted companerxs. Today, we are at a critical moment in the struggle for the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta. After his case was taken up by the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation in 2023—with the possibility of ending once and for all the political persecution against him and ordering his absolute freedom—in November 2024 the Supreme Court emitted a resolution returning the case to the collegiate court in Oaxaca. This ruling was limited to vague recommendations made to the collegiate court in Oaxaca, ordering them to "review the case from an intercultural perspective taking into account the cultural specificities of the Mazatec community of Eloxochitlán," and to study whether the rights of self-determination and autonomy were respected throughout the legal process.

This order of course comes from authorities who are part of the same structure of power, passing on the responsibility to other authorities, leading us to believe that while it is true that the intercultural perspective was ignored throughout

extends even to their lack of proficiency in Spanish (2).

We request that the authorities of the Mexican State and the state of Chiapas: Comply with the opinion issued by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which translates into the immediate release of Manuel Sántiz Cruz, Juan Velasco Aguilar, Augustín Pérez Domínguez, Agustín Pérez Velasco, and Martín Pérez Domínguez; the investigation of the authorities responsible for their criminalization; and full reparation for all damages caused (4).

In a joint statement on April 18, 2024, multiple human rights groups in Chiapas identified the five as land and human rights defenders and called for their immediate release:

During this lengthy process, which has lasted 22 months and 18 days of arbitrary deprivation of freedom for the five defenders of the Cancuc territory, we have confirmed and demonstrated their innocence, and observed that the fabrication of evidence by the Prosecutor's Office is a constant.

The criminalization of Indigenous defenders in Chiapas and Mexico is a form of exemplary punishment for defending human rights, land, and territory. It is rooted in structural racism and is carried out through arbitrary deprivation of freedom, torture, and fabrication of guilt. Members of the Mexican Army and National Guard participate in the arrests, in addition to the failure to provide trials with an intercultural perspective, accompanied by excessive use of preventive detention.

Support

The San Juan Cancuc 5 are being accompanied by the abolitionist Grupo de Trabajo No Estamos Todxs. Here's a statement they released recently regarding their work for the five, as well as an interview with a member [Part 1, Part 2]. The group is attempting to make noise in the lead up to November of this year, when two crucial decisions are scheduled to be made. On the one hand, the court must rule on an *amparo* filed on behalf of the imprisoned compañeros. An *amparo* is akin to an injunction arguing that their rights have been violated and they must be freed. Secondly, the Mexican State is treaty-bound to respond to the United Nations call to release the five by the month of November.

Towards that end, the Grupo de Trabajo No Estamos Todxs is selling t-shirts to raise funds for the compañeros, as well as requesting that video messages of solidarity in any language be sent to them by September 22. Below is the call for videos. If you have questions or are interested in a t-shirt, please contact Scott Campbell.

Solidarity video campaign for the freedom of the prisoners from San Juan Cancuc

To all our compañerxs, organizations, and solidarity groups:

For more than three years, five compañeros from San Juan Cancuc have been unjustly imprisoned in CERSS No. 5 in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas. Their only "crime" has been to be Indigenous and defenders of the land and territory. Despite repeated demonstrations of their innocence, the Mexican state has convicted them in trials riddled with irregularities.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has requested that the Mexican government release them immediately and comply with its international human rights obligations.

We therefore call on everyone to participate in the Solidarity Video Campaign by sending a message of support demanding their release.

The video must be in vertical format (30 to 60 seconds) and include the following message:

- "We demand the immediate release of our five imprisoned compañeros from San Juan Cancuc."
- "Stop the fabrication of guilt!"
- "Comply with the opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention."

Send your video to: noestamostodxs@riseup.net

We will not rest until our five compañeros regain their freedom.

Sincerely,
Grupo de Trabajo No Estamos Todxs

Tens of Thousands March in DC and Chicago Against ICE and Trump Occupation

September 9, 2025

On Saturday, September 6th, tens of thousands of DC and Chicago residents took to the streets against ICE and ongoing threats by the Trump administration to use DHS and the National Guard to occupy US cities. In DC, thousands marched on the White House, carrying "Free DC" signs and banners, many emblazoned with the "Sandwich Guy" image, which has become popularized through street art, graffiti, and wheat-pasted posters, following one person being arrested by over 20 officers for allegedly throwing a sandwich at federal forces after calling them "fascists." Despite attempts by the Trump administration to charge the person with a felony, a federal grand jury refused to indict the accused, following a growing trend.

> Massive anti-ICE, anti-occupation march on the White House happening right now in #DC. #FreeDC
>
> — It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-09-06T17:50:26.863Z

As *DC Media Group* reported:

Tens of thousands of DC citizens rallied and marched Saturday demanding the immediate end to occupation forces and an end to police harassment and illegal arrests in communities throughout the city. The We Are All DC action was in response to the regime's deployment of 1000s of federal police and over 2000 Army National Guard Soldiers from Southern States, including Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Citizens denounced roundups of immigrants, traffic stop traps, and the arrests some U.S. citizens.

The march began at Malcom X Park and ended about a mile away at Freedom Plaza, where organizers told of the adverse affects the occupation had on their communities, police stops to check drivers, usually without probable cause, and ICE roundups of immigrants and green card holders awaiting their final approval as citizens. Businesses were being hampered or closed because customers were not coming to the city and workers were afraid to go to work.

Trump's claim that a crime emergency justified the occupation forces has been resoundingly rejected by DC citizens. Trump's claim of rising criminal element also was not supported by crime data published by his own Department of Justice. Such crime data accumulated by government police agencies over the past three decades actuality reflects a marked reduction in crime rates, according to a Department of Justice Report on crime in DC.

Mayor Bowser signed an agreement granting cooperation with occupation forces in DC beyond the 30 day emergency expiration which was scheduled to expire on September 10. While Mayor Bowser denied she was agreeing to cooperate with extending the President's crime emergency crackdown, grassroots groups expressed a sense of betrayal that she was cooperating with authorities in the first place. Speakers told how their communities had suffered greatly under the occupation and the Mayor's agreement was a furtherance of that suffering.

Reporting from the demonstrations on Saturday in DC, journalist Chuck Modiano said of the demonstrations, "All of DC has come out and said, "Fuck this fascist takeover. Get these troops, out of DC. Get ICE, fascist gestapo goons, out of DC"....DC has had enough, this has been going on for three weeks, maybe not at this scale, but there has been Copwatches going on for three weeks now, in all forms and varieties, and DC has had enough."

As Dave Zirin and Chuck Modiano both reported in *The Nation*, a growing network of mutual aid groups, Copwatch programs, and rapid response teams have mobilized to push back against federal law enforcement flooding DC streets with checkpoints and violent attack squads, aimed squarely at working-class residents:

> When the night comes, it is not just the National Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and a jumpy police department walking the streets. In an otherwise eerily quiet city, the people are present as well. Armed only with cell phones, medical kits, and the confidence to assert their dwindling rights, groups of local residents trail and record Trump's occupation forces. They're known as the night patrols.
>
> There is no centralized night-patrol planning committee. People in different groups don't necessarily know each other, but everyone with whom we spoke was either experienced in this kind of work through previous cop-watch trainings or are compelled by what is happening to play their part in making sure the foot soldiers of the surveillance state know they too are being surveilled.
>
> Every night patrol is different. One volunteer told us that it "fluctuates depending on events and community needs. Different crews have their own rhythms." Sometimes that means groups are small—maybe just three or four people—and other times it means flooding the streets with rallies that turn into patrols when the speeches are done.

Last Saturday, the DC Against Trump Coalition (DCAT) started a rally at 14th and U in one of DC's curfew zones, where minors are barred from gathering after 8 pm, allowing police to target Black youths as soon as the sun goes down. The event ended with groups of protesters patrolling different areas of DC up until 4 am.

There's a common and familiar refrain at protests, which in DC has become more than slogan—it's an organizing principle. Ty Hopson Powell at the Defend the District go-go rally repeated it to us as he explained the importance of grassroots organizing: "It is *us* that will save us! It is the message that we have been saying on the streets for years as frontline organizers who are the most invested in this work. WE WILL SAVE US! They won't save us."

Protests in the Chicago area, which s a w cancelled celebrations for Mexican Independence Day out of fear of targeted raids, also continued against ICE, taking place in the downtown, outside of the Great Lakes Naval Base and the Broadview, IL Detention Center, where protesters erected tents and blocked ICE vans from coming inside the facility.

> Thank you to everyone in Illinois who stood up to ICE mercenaries today. This is what it will take—to put our own bodies and freedom on the line in order to make every action they take as difficult as possible.crimethinc.com/zines/sev ...It is, in fact, our own freedom on the line.
>
> — CrimethInc. Ex-Workers' Collective (@crimethinc.com) 2025-09-05T17:46:26.231Z

The mass protests and demonstrations come as Trump is escalating violent rhetoric about the invasion of large cities, recently posting that "Chicago [is] about to

Court ruled that the Trump administration can transfer expelled immigrants to third countries with which they have no ties. Only one of the men in the group is Sudanese—the others are from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Burma, and Vietnam. Prior to their deportation, they had been held in a shipping container in Djibouti. In our last issue, we wrote about the deportation agreements between El Salvador and the US to hold migrants captive at the CECOT mega-prison. Since then, many more people have been removed from detention in the continental US to extralegal sites in Djibouti and Puerto Rico (a US colony). Trump has also proposed pressuring countries like Nigeria, Rwanda, and Liberia into accepting deportees from the US, even if they are not from these countries. This pressure comes as Trump has also imposed new visa restrictions on Nigeria, while Nigeria tries to negotiate new deals with the US around critical minerals, oil, and gas. We wanted to include this information in our news roundup because we think it shows how prisons, jails, and ICE detention centers are all connected (another topic that comes up in the interview), and because Trump has repeatedly threatened to denaturalize citizens and deport them as punishment.

In our Summer 2024 issue, we wrote about the massive, youth-led protests against President William Ruto that had spread across Kenya. The protests have continued over the last year. Initially sparked in response to a finance bill that raised taxes on essential goods, the protests have broadened their focus to police violence and impunity, government corruption, and the high cost of living. The finance bill was retracted early on in June 2024, but since then the proposed taxes were implemented through other legislative amendments. Protesters remain resolute in their opposition both to the taxes and to the government as a whole. According t o *Al Jazeera* and other news sources, police repression has continued and even intensified in recent months. This has included disappearances of protesters by government-backed goon squads, as well as the June 2025 murder of the popular blogger Albert Ojwang while in police custody. Recently, on June 25, organizers called for large demonstrations to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the movement. Police responded to the demonstrations with live ammunition, tear gas, and water cannons, killing at least 16 and injuring close to 400 across Nairobi, Kikuyu, Mombasa, Kisii, and other towns across the eastern side of the country. More recently, the nationwide annual "Saba Saba" ("Seven Seven" in Kiswahili) protests, which commemorate the movement for the return to multiparty democracy that began in 1990 on July 7 (or 7/7), faced brutal repression, with police killing another 11 protesters across the country. But protesters vow to not rest until Ruto is removed from office.

Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians continues. In the last *TOS*, we noted that Israel had begun a complete blockade of food and other aid at the beginning of March (during a ceasefire!). Israel partially lifted the blockade on May 19, which means that it lasted over 11 weeks. And even then, the aid they are letting in is extremely limited. In part, this is because of how it's being distributed. In the wake of the 1948 *nakba* ("catastrophe" in Arabic), when Israeli soldiers and militias violently expelled 750,000 Palestinians from their lands in order to establish the Zionist state, a UN organization called UNRWA was set up to provide humanitarian aid and necessary services like education and health care (all part of what we called "reproductive labor" above) to Palestinian refugees and their descendants. Since it provides these necessary, life-sustaining services, the genocidal Israeli state has long targeted UNRWA in its attacks and more recently has persuaded the US government to cut off funding for the organization. All of that is important context for what's happened since Israel partially lifted its blockade. Israel and the US have backed a new organization called the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) to replace UNRWA and deliver aid (hm, what could go wrong?). While UNRWA provided aid for Gaza's more than two million inhabitants at 400 locations, GHF uses just four sites. These sites have quickly become death traps. As of July 7, *The Guardian* reports that Israeli soldiers and US mercenaries working for GHF have killed almost 800 Palestinians who were lining up for food aid. At least 4,000 people have been wounded. The Israeli military calls these aid sites "combat zones," rhetorically turning desperate men, women, and children trying to survive starvation into "enemy combatants." Palestinians are being killed not only with US-made guns, bombs, and missiles, but with forced starvation and the lure of humanitarian aid.

Did You Know? This is our regular feature about histories from below that have been silenced or distorted by the powers that be. Although ICE was created relatively recently, following 9/11, the violent policies leading to mass deportation and the revocation of birthright citizenship reflect the heart of the US's immigration policy from the very first: "nation of immigrants" is just as laughable as "home of the free." There are countless examples of this, from the Chinese Exclusion Act to Eisenhower's "Operation Wetback," but for this issue's *Did You Know?* we are going to look back at a time when, like today, America undertook a campaign of ethnic cleansing against Central American people.

During the Great Depression, from 1929-1939, nearly 2 million Mexicans and Mexican Americans, many of them US-born citizens or workers who had been recruited to migrate to America during a 1920s labor shortage, were deported to Mexico. Armed federal agents raided parks, farms, social clubs, and hospitals, demanding that anyone with brown skin or a name government officials thought sounded "Mexican" supply proof of citizenship. Anyone without papers on hand was arrested and loaded onto a train. At the time, it was called "repatriation"; today, we call it ethnic cleansing. The ethnic violence was supported by nativist labor unions like the American Federation of Labor, which argued that the actions would lead to more jobs and higher wages for white American workers, but the opposite

minimum GPA, etc.) will be transferred. Increasing access to college classes is great, but having to maintain eligibility can turn this opportunity into a tool for administrators and guards to control and repress prisoners. Have folks at Thumb and elsewhere heard about the project, and if so what do you think?

We included an article in the Summer 2024 issue about the decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to enact new rules to reduce phone and video call rates for prisoners and to prohibit providers from paying commissions and kickbacks (i.e. bribes) to jails and prisons where they operate. The new rules were supposed to go into effect around the country in 2025, though facilities with active contracts were granted a one-year extension. (We've heard that rates did come down at some Michigan prisons at least.) Now, the Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) reports that the FCC has abruptly announced a two-year postponement for implementing these rules. Apparently, the decision comes in response to retaliation by a small group of county sheriffs in states like Arkansas who have said that if the FCC blocks their kickbacks, they will cut off phone calls entirely in their jails. Also, some Republican state attorneys general sued the FCC claiming that the new rules would make it harder to monitor calls (a service offered by the companies) and therefore a security risk. Obviously all of that is bullshit and the real reason is that they want to squeeze as much money as they can out of prisoners, families, and friends. The two-year postponement means that the rules won't go into effect until April 2027, but in the meantime these sheriffs and the prison telecom industry will lobby against them as much as they can, so who knows if they will be implemented at all. In the meantime, we're interested to hear from you whether call rates increase again.

A bit of good news for a change: Last fall, we reported on the Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's decision to bring criminal charges against 11 students and community members who protested against the University of Michigan's investment in weapons manufacturers that sell bombs, missiles, and other technologies of death to the Israeli government. When the local prosecutor declined to bring charges against these protesters, UM's president and regents (members of the board that basically oversees the university) reached out privately to AG Nessel and asked her to bring the charges instead. She gladly agreed. (The *Guardian* reported that six of the eight regents had contributed thousands of dollars to Nessel's electoral campaigns; one regent was co-chaired of her campaign in 2018; and several were personal friends with her. Nessel also received significant donations from pro-Israel politicians, organizations, and university donors.) But in May, after months of sustained pressure, she reluctantly dropped all of these charges! We hope that losing so bad in court makes her think twice about bringing charges like this in the future, but given her financial and ideological commitments we can't be sure.

During Trump's second presidential campaign, "millions of deportations" became a rallying cry for his supporters. Trump has been trying to make good on this promise since he took office, expanding and accelerating a deportation system strengthened by the Obama and Biden administrations. These efforts have come to a head since May of this year, as raids conducted by masked ICE agents have escalated in cities across the US. ICE has descended on Home Depots, day labor centers, car washes, high school graduations, elementary school playgrounds, summer camps, and farms among other locations, to kidnap people from their communities and disappear them into the bowels of the growing carceral system. ICE began a series of raids across California on June 6. Los Angeles, as well as surrounding cities, saw both localized protests against ICE, and the deployment of the National Guard in response. Solidarity marches took place in San Francisco, Austin, Chicago, New York, and other cities. Thousands of anti-ICE demonstrators have been arrested by local and state police, who have often aided and abetted in these raids as well. All along, ICE has become more and more brazen with broad daylight kidnappings, with sometimes more than 10 masked agents tackling, wrestling, and dragging away a single person.

We are learning more about the conditions of ICE detention in the US and frankly batshit deportation stories of regular people (our interview with JR also covers some of these issues). You may have heard of "Alligator Alcatraz," the brand new detention center (or concentration camp) built in 8 days in the Florida Everglades on sacred Miccosukee land. A lawyer who tried to visit one of their clients there writes: "The facility is filling daily with more and more people, and it lacks basic infrastructure to handle its current capacity, while not yet having reached max capacity. Detainees are being issued inmate and booking numbers, but cannot be found on the ICE detainee locator, nor Collier or Miami-Dade County inmate searches. The population has been detained by ICE, but ICE is denying jurisdiction, saying it's a state facility. My client has been denied access to his attorney, denied the right to file a motion for bond, which he is statutorily eligible for, and denied the right to a hearing on said motion for bond before an immigration judge." Moreover, Trump supporters have been delighted at the prospect of detained migrants being "fed to the alligators," which recalls historic anti-Black racism that referred to Black children as "alligator bait." Postcards and cartoons from the early 1900s depicting this kind of racism dehumanized Black children and presented this violence as humorous. With the June 30 revocation of Temporary Protected Status (a specific visa status for people who cannot return safely to their country of origin due to armed conflicts, environmental disaster, etc.) for Haitians in the US, and with around 480,000 Haitians living in Florida alone, the deportation project is targeting not just Latinx people but also Black people for incarceration, torture, expulsion, and premature death.

On July 7, eight men were deported to South Sudan after the Supreme

find out why it's called the Department of WAR." Meanwhile, the Supreme Court issued a green-light for ICE to engage in racial profiling in Los Angeles as the "Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals ruled that people who enter the country without authorization must be detained throughout their removal proceedings, a process that can take years." Reports show that the number of people in detention by the DHS is at a record high, while a s *Fortune* reported, "[T]he majority of people currently detained by ICE have no criminal convictions. Of those who do, relatively few have been convicted of high-level crimes — a stark contrast to the chilling nightmare Trump describes to support his border security agenda."

> This morning, at the Broadview, Illinois (suburban #Chicago) ICE detention facility, protesters singing "We shall not be moved!" blocked #ICE from entering the facility. As the vehicle turned around the crowd celebrated another #resistance victory! #Trump #EpsteinFiles #Resist #immigrants
>
> — The Weekly Opine (@theweeklyopine.bsky.social) 2025-09-05T16:19:32.088Z

Regardless of if Trump does mobilize National Guard troops to send to more US cities, DHS is already carrying out multiple operations, with current surges recently announced in Chicago and Boston. DHS also recently carried out a massive operation at a Hyundai plant in Georgia, detaining hundreds of workers, and Tom Homan has continued to paint Portland, OR as a hotbed of "protest violence" against ICE. The raids carried out by the DHS under Trump have been designed to instill terror and fear across entire communities and have already led to several deaths, as multiple people have died while attempting to escape during ICE raids, while at least 14 people have died in ICE detention camps since Trump took office. Prisoners in detention report widespread human rights abuses and horrific conditions, while ICE agents have been documented carrying out brutal attacks on individuals, violently targeting those filming their actions; even shooting up a families' car in Southern California and arresting US citizens.

> An amazing sign at the 🧊 protest in Chicago today! We do not want nazis and 🧊 in our communities!! I love Chicago so much! Fuck 🧊
>
> — Jin X. Goh | 吴晋勋 (@jinxungoh.bsky.social) 2025-09-07T00:55:41.294Z

While the Trump administration has attempted to paint its immigration policies as a return to "law and order" or through the reactionary faux-populist framing that less immigrants will mean lower housing costs and better jobs, in reality the Trump administration's push for mass deportations is driven by white nationalist ideology that seeks to purge the US of non-whites through organized state repression and brutality. Recent branding by the DHS on social media only solidifies this reality: amplifying established neo-Nazi and white supremacist memes and conspiracy theories. This project, made possibly by decades of help from the Democratic party, which has demonized immigrants, militarized the border, and pushed millions to migrate in search of work, seems to have at least partially backfired, with many recoiling at the authoritarian and racist nature of ICE and its devastating impacts on wholesale communities.

> Can't express in words how big this rally in Chicago is. The president's fascist goon squad is not welcome here.
>
> — Tim Onion (@bencollins.bsky.social) 2025-09-06T23:51:52.628Z

Attacks on immigrants are also taking place against a backdrop of increasing inflation, costs, wealth inequality and a declining standard of living for the entire working-class inside the US, as the financial and tech elite rally around Trump, celebrating record profits and tax-cuts as the Trump family rakes in billions. With increasing signs that the economy is stagnating due to everything from tariffs, an AI-bubble, and the deportation of low-wage workers crucial to capitalism, multiple crises threaten to erupt into potential social conflict and instability, as farmers face bankruptcy, home ownership remains unaffordable for the vast majority of workers, and the incoming impacts of cuts to Medicaid threatens to shutter hospitals and throw millions off of healthcare.

> Normal fucking country
>
> — unraveled (@unraveledpress.com) 2025-09-07T04:46:13.409Z

While Trump and his top advisors continue to lie, claiming that things will get better for the rest of us "soon," the contradictions of a government run by billionaires and CEOs is becoming ever more crystalized, as conditions for those at the bottom only continue to worsen.

cover photos via screenshots from DC Media Group

Freedom for the Five Prisoners of San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas

September 5, 2025

Statement calling for the freedom of the five prisoners of San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas from the working group No Estamos Todxs

To the EZLN.
To the CNI.
To our compañerxs of the Sixth.
To our compañerxs who defend human rights.

To those who fight against prisons, both from the inside and on the outside of them.
And, above all, to our five comrades imprisoned in San Juan Cancuc and their families.

More than three years ago, we learned of the injustice committed by the Mexican state and this bad government when they arbitrarily detained our five comrades from San Juan Cancuc. A few months after their arrest, we had the honor of beginning to accompany them.

It has been more than three years of getting to know them and their families; of having deep conversations; of sharing Sunday meals and laughter; of listening to their dreams shattered since they were imprisoned; of feeling anger, but also hope. Throughout this time, they have shown us the steadfastness of their quest for justice and the dignity of their struggle for freedom.

We have to state clearly: we have never doubted their innocence. Their real "crime" in the eyes of the bad government is being poor, indigenous, and, above all, defenders of the land and territory. Over the past three years, we have witnessed the bad government's constant contempt for them. They have faced two trials riddled with violations of due process, demonstrating that this government does not seek justice. Their judicial process is a clear example of what has been denounced for years: the fabrication of guilt, a key part of a system where the "justice" of the Mexican state produces its own guilty parties, in which it is no longer necessary to commit a crime to be accused, detained, and sentenced.

During these years of accompanying and fighting for the freedom of our five comrades, we have opened up different fronts: legal, political, and organizational. The demand for justice has been taken to different authorities and locations. As a result, in September 2023, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention visited Mexico and Chiapas. After receiving information from various sources, the Working Group issued an opinion requesting that the Mexican government immediately release our five comrades; grant them the effective right to compensation for damages; and conduct a thorough investigation of the responsible authorities, in accordance with international law. The struggle on all these fronts continues.

That said, the purpose of these words that arise from our collective and militant heart is to echo up there, where contempt for those of us who live, organize, and fight down here is nested: we will not stop standing together and fighting alongside our imprisoned comrades and their families. Each day that passes is one day less of justice, one more day of separation between our comrades and their families, and one more day that we will continue to fight. Their innocence has already been proven time and time again. More and more voices are crying out for justice; organizations, collectives, and individuals in many corners of the world are joining this cry. Let it be clear: we will not stop fighting for a single day until we see our comrades free.

We invite everyone listening to join this struggle, in whatever way, time, and form suits each person, organization, or collective. We also want to let you know that in the coming days we will share new proposals for action. Therefore, we ask you to stay tuned to the campaign for the freedom of our five comrades.

We know that what is happening to them is not an isolated case. Prisons are always full of those of us who live at the bottom of the pyramid, while those at the top are never to be seen there. That is why we continue to strive for other forms of justice and for the end of prisons.

Cheers.

Sincerely,

No Estamos Todxs Working Group

"Down with prison walls"

Translated by Schools for Chiapas

In Contempt #56: DFW Support Committee on Resisting Repression, Casey Goonan Launches Hunger Strike, Reports of Uprising at Alligator Alcatraz

September 3, 2025

In this column, we present our monthly roundup of political prisoner, prison rebel, and repression news, happenings, announcements, action and analysis. Packed in as always are updates, fundraisers, and birthdays.

There's a lot happening, so let's *dive right in!*

Feature: Interview with Dallas Fort Worth Support Committee on Pushing Back Against Repression

We we reported in last month's column, a wave of repression has hit the DFW region of Texas, following a noise demo outside of an ICE facility in July. As a recent statement from the DFW chapter of the National Lawyers Guild wrote about the case:

> On July 4th, a noise demonstration took place outside of the ICE Prairieland Detention Center in Texas. What was a typical pro-immigrant protest has turned into a massive federal investigation, with 16 defendants now facing criminal charges. The National Lawyers Guild (NLG), the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, the TexOma region of the NLG, the San Antonio Chapter of the NLG, and the Mass Defense Committee of the NLG stand in support of the Prairieland Defendants.
>
> Community members went to the Prairieland Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in Alvarado, Texas, to rally against ICE's violent and relentless attacks on immigrants, and to express solidarity with those imprisoned inside the detention center. There was a planned noise demonstration at the facility, where fireworks were used, and other loud noises were made. Making noise outside of jails is an extremely common form of protest, extending solidarity to those behind bars. As the rally went on, ICE agents called the local police department. After local police arrived, one officer claimed to have sustained a minor

- We Need Reproductive Justice Now! An Argument for Abolition Rachel E. Utz, J.D.
- Building a World without Family Policing Dorothy Roberts
- **Interview with JR of No Detention Centers in Michigan** MAPS

Greetings friends and happy summer!

This issue of *The Opening Statement* includes two articles, an interview, and a poem. Both articles share a general focus on abolition and reproduction. "Reproduction" includes literally having kids, but it also goes way beyond that. Think about all of the work it takes to raise a kid: most obviously carrying a pregnancy and giving birth, with all of the health care and other forms of support that this entails; but it also requires buying and preparing food, providing and maintaining a place to live, along with childcare and schooling, emotional and physical care, activities and other forms of socialization. Often families, extended families, or chosen families/friends/communities are involved. We could call all of this work "reproductive labor." Because of the way that our society is organized, this work is often delegated to women, who are often expected and even forced to do this work "because of their nature." Of course, lots of people, including men, do reproductive labor—even in prison, think about who does the cooking and cleaning. In this expanded sense, "reproduction" refers not just to something women do by having kids, but to an entire social system that produces and maintains life on a daily and intergenerational basis—a social system in which many forms of oppression, inequality, and violence are embedded.

The first article, by the attorney Rachel E. Utz, proposes a framework of "reproductive justice" that uses this expanded sense of "reproduction" both to imagine a truly "just" world and to develop a political approach to get there. For Utz, the reproductive justice framework goes beyond pro-choice/pro-life debates by considering everything that is required to achieve and maintain bodily autonomy. Most importantly, Utz argues that reproductive justice requires abolition.

The second article, by the scholar Dorothy Roberts, introduces her book titled *Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World.* In the article, Roberts discusses the violence and racism of the "child welfare system" and argues that this system works not to help children but to police and terrorize families, especially Black families. Roberts also explains how she came to see abolition as the best and really the only way to support the well-being of children, families, and communities.

Next up is our interview with JR, a member of the No Detention Centers in Michigan (NDCM) coalition, which is organizing against the reopening of a massive, for-profit ICE detention center in Baldwin, MI. (MAPS is part of the NDCM coalition.) In the last issue of *TOS*, we included a news item about the reopening of this detention center, and we wanted to keep following this issue both because it's so close to home and because it's such an important part of the Trump administration's fascist "mass deportation" strategy. In the interview, JR talks about the history of this detention center, the organizing that NDCM is doing, and why abolition is an important framework for the group, among other topics.

Finally, we include a poem from the poetry collection *Like a Hammer: Poets on Mass Incarceration* called "Ghazal to Open Cages," by Angel Nafis. We love that the poem keeps coming back to the word *how*—every line ends with this word, which pushes us to think about process. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the poem too.

Now for the news roundup. In MDOC news, an important lawsuit was filed on May 6 by prisoners at Women's Huron Valley CF, alleging that guards violated the law by regularly using their body cameras to record strip searches and other situations where prisoners were exposed. Complaints about this horrible invasion of privacy were initially raised on February 17, but it took MDOC until March 24 to change its policy and require guards to put their cameras on "sleep mode" during strip searches. Even after the policy change, however, guards apparently continue to record prisoners in this way. We thought this was important to mention because many reformers see body cams as a real solution to the problem of abuse by guards, but in this case they have actually created new problems and new forms of abuse. What have you noticed about the rollout of body cameras at your facility? Have things changed for better or worse? How have guards reacted to the new requirement to use these cameras? Have you tried to request body cam footage, and if so have you faced retaliation for doing so?

In early June, the *Detroit News* reported that MDOC rolled out a new policy tightening controls on prisoners' electronic tablets. The article mentioned changes to the approval and verification process and the inclusion of altered tablets as an example of "dangerous contraband." Readers will know that we're interested in prison censorship, so we wanted to ask if you have seen or experienced these new restrictions, and maybe other kinds of restrictions that weren't reported on in the article. For example, we know that here in Michigan at the Monroe County Jail, guards refused to charge people's tablets, making them useless. There was nothing in the policy that required guards to charge tablets, and they were the only source of reading material as the library had been purged of print books. Have you heard of or seen new restrictions on tablets, formal or informal?

In an article published by the Prison Journalism Project, we read that Thumb Correctional Facility is planning to transform an unused warehouse into a "self-contained college center" for all of the prisoners held there. According to the article, once the center is built, anyone at that prison who doesn't meet certain eligibility requirements (including good behavior,

warmth of the land; of not being able to sprout seeds; or hear the elders and children laugh. It has been a week full of stories of strife rooted in forced immigration and to come face-to-face with the criminalization of the immigrant. Getting to see the guts of the for-profit system that scrutinizes every move we make, that locks us far away from loved ones.

Where the lights are on day and night; where every evening's dinner is a frozen ham and cheese sandwich, crackers, and orange juice; where you ask for permission to use the bathroom and bathe yourself at certain times of day.

Those who work here make fun of the immigrants in English. When people get sick, they make fun of them, and the nurses only offer them water. The water in here stinks.

But here we breathe companionship and solidarity. Here we share ailments, stories, advice, encouragements, and learn to play games together.

In the words of Roque Dalton, the Salvadoran poet: "My veins don't end in me, but in the unanimous blood of those who struggle to live, love, little things, landscape and bread, the poetry of everyone."

And how they say in the South: "The fight continues until dignity becomes the norm."

—Cata "Xóchitl" Santiago

19

If grief means to make heavy, then we must ask ourselves, How will that weight be distributed? How do we take that weight and turn it into a blunt force object with which to bludgeon the fascist regime that would otherwise see us disappeared either by death or incarceration (a social death as it's called)? Fascism capitalizes on our grief by immobilizing people with the looming threat of such fates. But we will not limit ourselves to its endings. As anarchists, we are much more creative than that.

When my partner was locked away as a result of our assault on fascism, we got creative with our lifelines. When communication was reduced to ghostly transmissions in the form of letters and phone visits, we found portals of possibility. He put strands of hair in a letter so I could put them on his pillow, remembering when our bed was shared. I drew raindrops on fingertips to hold against the plexiglass when I visited the prison, reminding him of the earth he could not see. Sacred doesn't have to mean somber, so we tell jokes, sharing laughs with loved ones on both sides of the walls, thinning the veils. Defying the dictum, we choose life. With his continued incarceration, the weight of our grief has not lessened, but we don't carry it alone.

As we grieve publicly, let us all rage against the dying of the light by being brave together and accepting that if our courage makes us outlaws, so be it.

—Krystal

The Heart Is a Muscle: 19 Embodiments of Antifascist Grief is an act of love and solidarity. Please share this zine freely and widely.

For other zines in this series," check out *Don't Just Do Nothing: 20 Things You Can Do to Counter Fascism* and *Anarchist Compass: 29 Offerings for Navigating Christofascism*, and most recently, *Ritual as Resistance: 18 Stories of Defending the Sacred*.

For other zines in this series, see *Don't Just Do Nothing: 20 Things You Can Do to Counter Fascism*, *Anarchist Compass: 29 Offerings for Navigating Christofascism*, *Ritual as Resistance: 18 Stories of Defending the Sacred*, and most recently, *Everyday Antifascism: 14 Ways That Solidarity Keeps Us Safer*, all freely available at *ItsGoingDown.Org*, with big thanks to *IGD* for hosting the texts and PDFs on its website.

I extend my gratitude to Ez Naive (EZNaive.com; @ez.naive.art on IG), a Greek artist currently living and creating on the traditional, unceded, and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, for the cover artwork, originally titled "Devotion," and as with past zines, Casandra (www.houseofhands.net) for kindly turning my design and layout into PDFs.

August 2025

cover photo: Alissa Azar

The Opening Statement – Summer 2025

September 1, 2025

Announcing a new issue of *The Opening Statement*, an abolitionist publication from Michigan.

Celebrate our 25th issue of *The Opening Statement!* TOS is a free quarterly newsletter that features articles, poetry, political writing and opinion pieces by people inside and outside of prison. This issue of The Opening Statement includes two articles, an interview, and a poem. You will especially want to read our interview with JR, of the No Detention Centers in Michigan (NDCM) coalition, about the GEO Group reopening the notorious North Lake Detention Center in Baldwin, MI, as an ICE facility. North Lake reopened in late June and is already holding hundreds of detainees. If it reaches capacity, it will become the largest ICE detention center in the Midwest. MAPS is a long-time member of the NDCM coalition. Learn more about NDCM and join the fight with us!

The two articles both share a focus on abolition and reproduction. Finally, we include a poem, "Ghazal to Open Cages," by Angel Nafis, from the poetry collection, *Like a Hammer: Poets on Mass Incarceration*. We hope you enjoy, share, and discuss this issue!

THE OPENING STATEMENT - SUMMER 2025 (CLICK THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD PDF)

ARTICLES AND AUTHORS LISTED BELOW:

- **Notes from the Editors**
- **Ghazal to Open Cages** Angel Nafiz

injury to his neck by what the state claims was a gunshot. In response, the government has arrested 16 people, some through raids and traffic stops. Yet, through all of the federal government's criminal complaints, only two people have been described as alleged shooters.

Due to unchecked state repression, people present at the noise demonstration are now facing decades of prison time and years of pre-trial detention, regardless of their actions or knowledge. For weeks, local and federal agents have terrorized friends and family members of those arrested at the rally, serving no-knock warrants and conducting widespread surveillance. Multiple people arrested were not even at the demonstration on July 4th. Most defendants remain detained without formal charges, without legal representation, and in limbo between state and federal jurisdiction. Finding attorneys has been extremely difficult given the incredibly repressive behavior of the government.

We are witnessing state repression in real time. It is clear that police and prosecutors hope that the deplorable conditions of imprisonment will break the defendants and compel cooperation under duress. State and federal agents are wielding their power to silence people who dissent, to terrify and deter the public from exercising their rights to protest, and to make an example of the Prairieland Defendants in order to quash anti-ICE speech. The government seems determined to criminalize everyone even remotely related to the July 4th rally, regardless of their level of involvement. The flurry of arrests and severe charges are meant to suppress political organizing and free speech.

Lawyers who have visited the defendants say Johnson County Jail's conditions are reprehensible. At least two defendants have been placed in solitary confinement without any explanation. One defendant was forced to clean the walls of feces left by a previously held prisoner. The defendants' ability to communicate with friends and family outside the jail has been restricted at least twice, without any notice or explanation. At least three of the defendants are being strip-searched regularly, even though they are in solitary confinement. Two of the defendants are vegan and were not fed appropriate food. The jail has denied multiple defendants necessary medical accommodations such as a basic pillow and blood pressure medication, resulting in serious pain and potentially lasting injury. Additionally, trans individuals have been dead-named and misgendered by the jail, the media, and their own state-appointed attorneys, even though their names have been legally changed to reflect their gender.

Making matters worse, the majority of the defendants are under federal investigations, yet are still being held on state charges. The state's actions reflect their aim to criminalize people who stand up to ICE's excesses. We have seen similar repression in Atlanta, Georgia, Spokane, Washington, and Los Angeles, California. It is abominable to arrest and detain people simply for their proximity to an alleged offense, in the absence of probable cause. The state's case has failed to afford the defendants their due process and is a clear violation of their rights.

So far, a fundraiser has been launched to support those arrested, a zine has been made to print out and distribute, and a website has also been set up. Wanting to know more about the campaign to support those facing repression, we reached out for an interview with the DWF Support Committee.

IC: *Can you tell us about what's been happening in Texas this month?*

DFWSC: The month of July was really hard. The Trump administration and its FBI have been relentlessly terrorizing friends and family of the defendants across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, raiding their homes, and in one case, literally tackling them on the street and placing with a bag over their head in an attempt to force them to talk. The repression that we are experiencing is like nothing that we have dealt with before. This has also meant the total number of defendants has increased, mostly, it seems, following a manhunt for someone the state alleges was involved with the protest on July 4th. The total number of defendants we're aware of is now seventeen.

On the legal front, things remain at a standstill. In Texas, you can be held without being formally indicted on a case like this for at least 90 days, and until the federal government decides to move forward, they can leave people in detention limbo. We've heard lawyers call this "the speedy trial loophole," and it means defendants do not have access to federal public defenders; the few defendants who have been assigned state-level public defenders have been told by those very lawyers that they won't talk to the defendants until they are formally indicted by the state. Most defendants need to go the public defender route at this point because, given their charges, private lawyers are quoting extremely high retainer fees. It's a very stressful situation because people are really suffering in this shitty county jail with very minimal access to lawyers. It leaves us asking, Why is nothing moving? If the government thinks it has such a strong case, why not move forward? Honestly, at this point, we suspect the state prosecutors and the feds are stuck. They probably have no evidence of the outlandish claims they're making, and they want to memory hole our loved ones so that no one asks any questions and everyone subsequently forgets about them. But we won't let the state do that to our friends and family.

The big positive of the last few weeks has been the efforts to bring people together so that we can remain strong, both for ourselves and for our people inside. This includes making sure that other people know about their stories and what is happening to our loved ones. Isolation only furthers the state's power. We win when we

stick together. The initial protest was an effort to show solidarity with those detained and brutalized by ICE, and so we on the outside need to follow that intention and show bravery and solidarity of our own.

IC: *Can you tell us the ways that people's rights have been violated following the raids? A recent update posted to GiveSendGo paints a very frightening picture, alleging that people have been offered bribes and denied legal counsel. What's going on?*

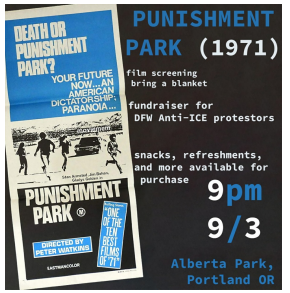
DFWSC: The state continues with their wave of force against the defendants and their families and friends. Johnson County Jail gives defendants the runaround by providing inconsistent information about the length of time defendants have supposedly lost access to commissary and in-person visits for being "on punishment." Defendants have informed us that they have been put in solitary with no explanation as to why. One reported that they were moved to a solitary unit where the cell walls were covered in feces, and they were given rags and made to clean the feces.

We truly do not know the full extent of the defendants' experiences in the jail because we are just now beginning to have more consistent contact with some of the defendants. Legal counsel has been minimal, and even then, the jail has even denied some lawyers visitation when they've gone to see the defendants. In Texas, you are required to file paperwork proving you can't afford a lawyer before a state attorney is assigned to you. Our people's paperwork has been denied for being apparently 'incomplete,' even though the jail itself instructed the defendants to fill out minimal information on the forms.

Friends have been detained and interrogated just for going to visit folks. Defendants are being violated by regular strip searches, sometimes even multiple within a day even when they're held in solitary. This process also includes correction officers ransacking people's cells, and in one case, taking a defendant's notes from their lawyer meetings. This is obviously a scare tactic intended to isolate the defendants from the outside world and leave them vulnerable.

IC: *What are the best ways for people to support the defendants at the moment?*

DWFSC: The GiveSendGo fundraiser is a great way for people who have extra funds to throw in for legal support. We also ask that people write to the defendants and show that there are people out there who do care and support them. We all know the horrors of the carceral system, so we need to let the defendants know they aren't alone in there.



Recent event in Portland, OR

Some people have started organizing letter writing events and fundraisers across the country. We really appreciate that kind of initiative, solidarity, and momentum. Our main goal right now is making sure our people inside know that they're loved and supported, and it's great to see so many people from around the world coming out to show that. We want to encourage more solidarity across struggles and geographies.

IC: *It seems like the case really hasn't made the news in wider anti-Trump circles, do you have any thoughts about why that is? Are there any requests you would make of people in terms of helping to publicize the situation?*

DWFSC: We think this is a test case for how the state enacts their repression of the left and liberation struggles moving forward. We already see that they have started moving and arresting people in the Pacific Northwest. But in terms of the larger media narrative, we don't really have a good answer on that. It's possible they don't want this to reach the public eye for a couple different reasons. They can see that people are already angry, that people are already standing up. Something like this depicted across mass media could inspire people to take more action or enrage more people that the state is suppressing protestors like this. The government wants to carry out its political repression as clandestinely as possible. They don't want to show how angry people are, they don't want the larger public to know that people are rising up, that people have the power to resist and protest their government, that normal people have the power to stand together and take action in the face of authoritarianism. It could also be just the brief nature of news cycle; now that the initial fantastical story has passed, the state hasn't released any more tantalizing evidence. They haven't released the video footage they allegedly have, they haven't moved forward with any legal process, they're just sitting on it. So there's a very real possibility the government is realizing they overplayed their hand and want to keep things in the confusing haze of the early days.

As for how people can spread the word about this situation, the best answer would be to talk about it: talk about it with your groups, your friends, your families. Share the story across social media platforms. We're really grateful some folks have started making some graphics and posts about this situation. The main message to share is that the official government story makes no sense and that the real terror is the groups of armed masked officers kidnapping people off the street. This is something that doesn't have to be spoken about in purely leftist circles. This is a story of authoritarian oppression, and it won't stop with us.

IC: *It seems like there's a danger where on the one hand, there's a temptation to erase the militancy from a movement to appeal to liberal supporters, and then on the other hand, people can just glamorize images of militancy in a way that can actually let the state set the agenda by not questioning what*

... The world we want is not built on the bones of martyrs. It is built with their dreams, their unfinished songs, their whispered hopes. Grief and sweetness can live in the same breath."

We arrived feeling a heaviness and left feeling lighter, having been able to shift a bit of our sadness, powerlessness, and frustration into togetherness, joy, and renewed focus.

—Fenya and Shoshana

14

The river is scarred with luxury condos and PFAS. A neighbor who lives under a bridge got violently evicted. A trans suicide attempt shake us. ICE abducted the neighbors before we arrived. The flock camera documents our movements. Safety is elusive. We feel the state closing in on our bodies. Trying to force us inward.

Yet we find soft landings: bergamot bitters, windswept sand, the call of the crane. We remind one another of paths beyond decimation, through post-op care plans, river trips, and crip kinship. We dance and dream despite the wreckage. Life force weaves through the grief.

-Lior

15

Almost every week, for twenty-two months, we've been marching for Gaza en masse—our cup of grief full. Yet even as the organizing became tighter and the speeches more on point, the media coverage evaporated. The police tightened their lines, vacuum sealing our mobilizations. Large numbers of people in one place seemed to have less and less impact. Meanwhile, our sorrow only increased as the atrocities multiplied. Our cup spilled over, time and again, with seemingly nowhere to go.

But like charged ions, our energy, catalyzed by our grief, diffuses across the barrier. Small numbers of people grip Palestinian flags and gather on new corners. Neighbors hold bake sales, fly kites, paint murals, hold vigils, and gather. Some, until now silent, join in. Grief has dispersed us across the landscape and drawn us onto the lesser-traveled streets, touching people and places that hold the heaviness of these times.

—Lesley Wood

16

"We just bombed Iran."

We were in our swimsuits. We were leaving the beach, returning to the concrete and traffic lights. The conversation halted as we swiped and typed. Where did it hit? How many were hurt? How many were killed?

"This reminds me of October 7," our friend said. "We were terrified for our family over there, trying to figure out where they were. It was stressful."

After some time on their phone, they spat, "People are being dismissive as fuck in this chat. I'm leaving it. Why are people like this?"

Cynicism protects us. It puts distance between ourselves and the situation. "The United States has always been an imperialist state. What did we expect?" "I knew this would happen. How could anybody be surprised?"

But reacting with cynicism also puts distance between us and the people who are affected, and the people who are feeling it deeply. We want to be disconnected from tragedy, but instead we disconnect from those around us. To move through this, we need to be together. And being together means being vulnerable and lingering in our grief.

As we continue through this nightmare, let's invite ourselves out of cynicism and the detachment it provides. Let's hold our knee-jerk "I knew" and "of course" to ourselves for a moment, and watch what can happen when we find words that connect us to each another's pain, shock, and fear. As fascism and its brutality intensifies, let us be human in the face of it together.

—Astaroth

17

The planned destruction of Gaza City is an unthinkable atrocity on the tip of history's tongue. We do not yet know if it will be spit out like wormwood or swallowed with gusto. ICE's destruction of our communities and sowing of fear is like a blanket of night on the land, as centuries of settler society reaches even more lethal conclusions. It's becoming harder and harder for queer and trans beloveds, and even harder to believe in the possibility that "we will outlive" the state's repression.

I feel all of this and more straining my heart, threatening to squeeze tears from my eyes to the point of bursting. I grieve for lost beloveds. I grieve for what's being torn apart and occupied, for martyrs and rebels slandered as "outside agitators" in their own homes. Every Shabbos, when I do my hormone injections and bring the light to my eyes, I worry I'm not strong enough to survive.

Through it all, though, I try and remember that grief is the flip side of love and a sign of what we're capable of. To love and be loved is dangerous. We cannot comply in advance, no matter how much we're told we're wrong to love this much.

Oh Great Mystery, I call out your name from the depths of this pit: the way I love is not wrong. Make my outpouring of grief a mirror so that I never forget just how adept I am at love. Our capacity for loving connections is our capacity to withstand the horrors to come, to face our fears, to become subversive. To all of my lovers constricted by sorrow, I pray, "Let's become dangerous, together."

—Anastasia bat Lilith

18

Today marks one week since the encounter with the border patrol agent in the El Paso, Texas, airport. A racist white man saw me as a disposable person.

Today marks one week of not being able to see the sunsets every evening; of not being able to feel the

Some years ago I adopted four parakeets who had escaped the pet trade but were unable to survive alone outside. They live with me indoors, uncaged. Being with them, seeing how we do together, has metamorphosed my awareness of belonging and reciprocity. The love I feel for them so overwhelms, it makes my heart physically ache. They are my Kropotkin swans.

"Old woman, I hold in my hand a bird. Tell me whether it is living or dead?" is the question posed in a Toni Morrison story by some children to an old, blind town outcast. Long ago, this story helped me deal with what felt like a dead world, before I was old and had lost my gaze, before my body understood dissent as a line of flight.

A video circulated recently showing a girl, maybe ten, kneeling, face contorted in anguish, holding the stiff body of a tiny green parakeet. The text pasted over it said: "Selma lost her bird due to the intensity of the bombing near their house." I saved a still. Each time I look, the heart goes rabid. No matter what I ever thought the question of the bird may have meant (for Morrison, it was the survivability of a language the state can't capture), Selma holds its answer. I am annihilated.

I pray she is still alive. Across dimensions, time, and space, together we re-form: Selma, me, and this pain.

—A. Hornak

11

Every few days, I get up, go to my laptop, print out a couple-dozen posters from the many curated folders of art sourced from Flyers for Falastin, carefully stuff all the prints into a transparent plastic folder with a snap fastener, top up my water bottle with wallpaper paste, give it a good shake for half a minute, wrap the bottle in an old tartan-print tea towel that's hardened in some areas, and shove the whole thing in an old IKEA ziplock bag along with a half-used packet of wallpaper powder, pair of needle-nose pliers in case the bottle cover gets stuck, a wall brush about five inches wide with bristles that have gone a little stiff from hasty cleaning, put on my usual attire—a black, short-sleeve coverall and black sneakers—leave my flat quietly so the cat doesn't wake up my partner, head down the labyrinth of corridors and flights of steps, rush through the humdrum of traffic, past the sea of faceless humanity, to the disused parking lot above the old market marked for demolition. Here, the real ritual takes place: with furious strokes and sloshes of gloop over brightly colored paper on pillars, walls, and any empty space left to fend for itself, I pour out my grief.

—shi Blank

12

This I know: not all grief is the same; varied losses have differ-ent textures. But nothing prepared me for grief under fascism.

Intellectually, I know that past fascisms have stolen so much from millions+, and the profound losses reverberate over generations. One can catalog lost kin and places, lost cultures, lost radical movements, lost possibilities. One can read books, visit genocide museums and mass murder sites, pause before monuments and public art of remembrance. One can be heartsick over the dead and sick over the human capacity for brutality when walking through a serene forest that, before erasure, was a centuries-old cemetery. I've done all of that and more.

Viscerally, that's another matter. Our bodies seem poor containers to hold the immensity of losses swirling all around us. What can record, much less make sense of, the flood of sorrow that runs through one's veins when living under fascism? So I try, and likely fail, to name my feelings, which first and foremost, is a lack of feeling. I know that I feel new emotions—like fear, paranoia, rage and impatience (mostly at liberals), indecisiveness (given what's at stake), and lack of futurity—along with old ones—such as ancestral trauma and a sense of abandonment. But mostly, I feel flat, distant, numb. How can grief over fascism shut down my emotional range?

So I try harder to notice when I do feel; it's always in little real-life moments that don't look away from the grief of fascism. To name one: it wasn't listening to the public reading aloud—with solemn intention and dignity, for sixteen hours—of some of the many names of children murdered in Gaza that somatically hit home. It was standing behind a Palestinian kid, maybe age eight, sprawled on the ground, an open notebook before them, writing each and every name down in crayon.

—Cindy Barukh Milstein

13

All of us inShabbes 24/7, a queer Jewish collective in Belgium, had been coping with conflicts within our families and friendship groups. We were wrestling with our identities and roles as Jews in ending the genocide in Gaza, and the grief that goes along with living in a time of mass death in our names. We needed a space dedicated to rerooting in care and our values.

So we wrote our own "Shabbat Ritual for Holding Grief and Joy." Because in Judaism, grief and joy go hand in hand; both need to be experienced fully and cannot be bypassed.

The first one we hosted was in a garden. We shared figs from the tree of one of our grandmother's who was in the process of transitioning out of life. We named our losses and listened. We lit candles, sang, and reflected on questions we'd devised, and took a bite of something sweet. We read words we'd crafted to move us through our ritual—some of which are here; all of which we posted on social media for others to use:

"In memory, in defiance, in tenderness—against genocide, empire, and erasure. ... [We] call in [our] ancestors—the broken, the brave, the exiled, the excommunicated. [We] call in the future, not yet born. ... We do not mourn alone. We mourn across borders, beyond flags, into memory that holds us accountable and makes us whole. ... [We] bless the defiant joy that still survives in [us].

really happened. Do you have any thoughts on how to avoid these traps?

DWFSC: The fact of the matter is that we don't know what happened that night. With so little information like this, it can be an easy trap to fall into, to regurgitate the state's narrative. This is even more important when the claims in this case are so dubious. If you read the official complaints, you'll see how little evidence there is, and the fact is that we know our people were planning on coming home that night. We know that there was a noise demonstration planned, and we know that the reason people planned any form of resistance to ICE is because of the authoritarian policies of the state, not only here in Texas but across the country. When talking about this situation, speak to what we do know: 1) people were arrested for protesting the government and 2) the state lies. Regardless of what happened on July 4th, no one deserves the treatment the defendants have been subjected to, and this whole situation is an attempt to squash dissent and destroy the movement.

For information you can follow along with updates on the GiveSendGo fundraiser and on the website.

IC: *We've seen suggestions that two of the defendants are now cooperating - is there anything you can say about this, and how might it affect how support is organized going forward?*

Because of the way this case is being handled and how slow it's progressed on the legal front, it's really difficult to discern the full picture of information like that. However, if you read the federal complaints, you'll see some statements attributed to defendants, so it's likely that, in the heat of initial arrest, some defendants made choices that we on the committee think were a mistake. But we consider that type of mistake very different from "cooperating." For us "cooperating" means active and ongoing participation in the state building a case against other defendants. Everyone involved in the defense committee at this point is committed to solidarity, and we support people exercising their constitutional rights. This situation should be a good reminder to everyone else that the safest and smartest thing to say to the police is absolutely nothing. You have a right to remain silent, and you should use it.

IC: *Anything else you'd like to state?*

DWFSC: We are currently coordinating a day of solidarity at the 90-day mark of the defendants' arrests after the July 4th demo: Friday, October 3rd, 2025. The 90-day mark is significant because under Texas law, the defendants can only be held in jail for 90 days without an indictment.

Adam King, the sheriff of the Johnson County Jail, where most of the defendants are being held, was arrested and faces felony sexual harassment and retaliation charges as of August 28, 2025.

On August 7th, seventeenth person, Susan Kent, was arrested in relation to this case. Dario Sanchez was also indicted at the state level, unlike all other defendants with state charges.

Our fundraiser has also surpassed $30,000. All defendants have been assigned state public defenders or retained counsel at the state level. However, there has been no movement in the federal cases.

Defendants' horrible jail conditions have continued however and many remain in solitary or segregated units away from the general population. Defendants are facing mandatory strip searches every time they leave their cells. To combat these conditions, we organized a few phone zaps targeting Johnson County Judge Christopher Boedeker, which seemed to reduce the number of strip searches to which defendants were being subjected.

Since this interview was conducted, the Defense Committee have issued a further statement:

> We are aggrieved to report that the Johnson County Sheriff's Office has arrested another member of the Dallas-Fort Worth community in relation to the July 4th Prairieland ICE Detention Center protest, bringing the total number of defendants in the case to seventeen. This person, Susan Kent, was also a member of the DFW Support Committee, the defense committee for the Prairieland Defendants. Like the rest of the defendants, their bond amount is set to an absurd and prohibitive $10 million dollars. We denounce this escalation by the state in its desperate attempts to criminalize people showing solidarity with those being kidnapped by ICE and to undermine dissent against rising authoritarianism.
>
> From the beginning, this case has been rife with inconsistencies, unbelievable accusations, and violence against the defendants and their loved ones. We do not know the state's allegations against Susan, but we believe this arrest is part of the state's attempt to terrorize the residents of Dallas-Fort Worth. To arrest someone well over a month after the July 4th event signals the state's dogged attempt to tear through this community. Susan was actively working to support the defendants, to advocate for them to get the best legal defense possible and encourage them to exercise their constitutional rights. Forcing this person to endure the same horrific conditions as the defendants they were working to support fits the state's tactics of repression in this case: brutalizing defendants' family members, conducting violent raids, subjecting defendants to solitary confinement, incessantly strip searching defendants, and other cruelty, such as forcing a defendant to clean feces off the walls of their cell. This case is emblematic of the outrageous arrests happening around the country, including in Spokane, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, as well as the unnecessary federalization of police in Washington DC, all while legal cases against protestors in Los Angeles are falling apart due to lack of evidence. These actions by the state are not meant to seek justice or truth. They

instead intend to terrify us and fracture solidarity among our movements. But we won't let them succeed.

Our friends and loved ones sought to show support for immigrants and ICE detainees facing brutal violence at the hands of the state. The Prairieland defendants are not terrorists. The real terrorists are the ICE agents kidnapping people off the street, destroying families and communities. We are devastated at Susan's arrest, but we are not deterred. We call on all those who support resistance and seek a freer world to stand up against this brutality and repression. For more information about the Prairieland defendants and how you can help raise funds for their defense, please go to dfwdefendants.wordpress.com or donate to the crowd fundraiser at givesendgo.com/supportDFWprot

As well as the main fundraiser, a second has been set up to support the family of Maricela Rueda, and the Screwston Anti-Fascist Committee are now selling t-shirts and posters to fundraise for the defendants. You can find an updated version of the Prarieland Defendants support zine here, and another zine has been made specifically to highlight the case of Des Revol, along with a printable design for "zines are not a crime - free Des" buttons. You can find more about Des' case at his Instagram.

Casey Goonan Kicks Off Hunger Strike in Solidarity with T. Hoxha

In the UK, Palestine-related pre-trial prisoner T Hoxha is on a hunger strike over her conditions, and has been joined by US prisoner Casey Goonan, who's next hearing is scheduled for September 23rd. The UK continues to see widespread repression against the Palestine solidarity movement in the wake of the banning of Palestine Action.

For a deep-dive on the hunger strike, check out a recent interview with *Millennials Are Killing Capitalism* here. A recent post to social media reported:

An immediate transfer of care for T Hoxha to a hospital in Northampton Healthcare Trust must be actioned. It is now day 21 of her hunger strike and medical neglect by your prison has since resulted in fever, persistent headache on the left side of her head, vomiting after taking vitamins, continued jaw pain, shedding hair and skin discoloration. Her condition is now considered in the "danger zone" by an advance nurse practitioner.

That an advanced nurse practitioner was not made aware of her case until Day 17 is incredibly improper practise for the treatment of prisoners on hunger strike, failing to begin a food refusal log until Day 5 of the hunger strike and failing to appropriately maintain this since as well as, the failure to provide consistent regular medical attention, providing electrolyte sachets and monitoring have proved HMP Peterborough to be incapable of fulfilling their duty of care to prisoners in their custody.

T has simply demanded her rights to fair treatment as an unconvicted prisoner of conscience. We are aware of the methods by which her rights are being removed by your prison as means of intimidation and isolation.

Another Sodexo prison, HMP Bronzefield, is currently in the media and public discourse due to two deaths, an assault and forced excessive lock up of prisoners last month. Given this, I am certain that HMP Peterborough will be soon also be investigated for direct medical neglect and abuse of authority in light of the seriousness of this matter.

The medical necessity of socialisation is a fact. Depriving T of the right to maintain correspondence with her community, or prevent her contribution to the improvement of your prison through work and classes indicates a concerted effort by the prison, you, to silence and allow physical harm to come to a prisoner in your care.

For a toolkit on how to support the hunger strike, go here. Casey also issued the following statement upon launching his hunger strike in solidarity, writing:

Today I learned about T Hoxha, a Pal Action prisoner in the UK who is on day 16 of their hunger strike at HMP Peterborough. As of 4pm eastern time, August 26, 2025, 2 out of 3 of her demands have been met, but she is still on strike to demand that the prison release the mail they have been withholding from her.

As captives imprisoned for our participation in the Palestinian liberation movement in the west, we have a responsibility to each other across borders to pursue our lives in prison with the same steadfastness as the Palestinian Prisoners movement held captive in 'Israeli' prisons.

The states we have been captured by are the enablers of the Zionist entity's accelerated genocide of Palestinians, as well as the ongoing genocides of black and indigenous people who's lands they continue to occupy.

As the Western left continues to move from crisis to crisis, avoiding their responsibilities to Palestine, we are all that we have. By we I am referring to people facing repression for their support for Palestine, the people who are truly sacrificing. Such as T Hoxha, who has suffered

6

Last summer at our student encampment for Palestine, I shared a prayer for sadness, from Siddur Lev Shalem, that has long been meaningful to me. I knew that as written, the prayer wouldn't serve our self-organized community: not only does it speak of grief as an individual—as opposed to communal—experience, but the prayer asks Hashem to return us to a place of happiness. Given that we were all witnessing an ongoing genocide in Gaza, it felt wrong to ask for our brokenheartedness to be transformed into joy. So I changed it to ask Hashem to "witness" our grief and help us understand its causes, and give us the strength to not turn away from our sorrow but instead continue the struggle for the people of Gaza and Palestine.

It was a profound moment, opening me up to witnessing even more grief—globally and locally, collectively and personally. I realized that this sadness is not mine alone to carry. Now I am holding it with others, and together, it is part of our communal bond. Our moments of shared joy are brighter because we carry so much pain together.

Just as engaging in mutual aid transforms one's material relations to others from transactional to reciprocal, from charity to solidarity, it's transformational to be with others in our mourning. I'm not grieving "for" others but rather "with" them.

My initial intuition has been reinforced by encounters with Buddhist, Jewish, and anarchist texts that speak to the inevitability of loss and suffering. They, like my community, teach me to embrace grief.

—Shamma Boyarin

7

For the past two years, those of us affected by ME/CFS, along with relatives and friends who came in place of their dead or those too sick to attend, have demonstrated together. We've held mourning protests, accompanied by speeches over loudspeakers, singing, and occupying Leipzig's central square by laying down. For a lot of us, laying in bed in a dark room is our daily reality. Our grief would remain hidden and forgotten, missing from public life and frequently "even" radical events, if it weren't for these intentional moments of our own making.

ME/CFS mostly affects women and other marginalized folks, and disability issues in general are usually among the first to be compromised under fascism. Fighting against both the stigmas attached to ME/CFS—such as laziness, "work shy," attention seeking, and hysteria—and its instrumentalization by right-wing conspiracy theorists for their anti-vax agenda makes our struggle one that's anticapitalist, feminist, and antifascist. Indeed, at both of our demos, we faced small batches of (sometimes violent) counterprotesters, clearly from Far Right circles.

So we grieve daily. For the loss of physical strength and participation in life. For when another person dies from ignorance in a hospital. For when a friend "chooses" assisted suicide because the reality of their life makes them feel as if they're already buried. And we will continue to hold rituals for as long as our illnesses—ME/CFS and other chronic conditions—are neglected by a heartless capitalist "health care" system, fascistic power holders, and maybe saddest of all, so-called leftist spaces.

—Tea "Kára" Drobniewski

8

I wish I wrote down instances of joy more, but I'm not gonna force it. I have a deep desire to write about the love notes on my altar, lavender greeting me at the farm, calendula overwhelming me, my friend drawing snails to remind me to go slow, the sweetness yet tang of lemon balm tea in my mouth, kisses and pets of cats, even if they make my eyes itch.

Yet here's the thing. I know that maybe people are tired of hearing brown queer trans folks in grief, but damn, the burdens keep getting heavier to hold. So when I come to these pages, I must rage. The page swallows my words like a pill.

Last week, Israel bombed many neighborhoods I remember in Tehran; one place was six kilometers away from my house, the place I lived in my youth.

I tried to sandwich my instagram stories with:

[690 Iranians detained by ICE last week]

a picture of saffron and pomegranate

[More than 900 Iranians (hamvatani) killed by Israeli forces]

a picture of two Iranian men dancing sweetly together

[60,000+ Gazans killed by Israel, 66 times the number in Iran during war, I explain to the Iranian uncles, hoping they will also care about Palestine and see our fights as interconnected]

a picture of olive branches and poppies

Here's the info—horrible, real. Let me humanize us for your consumption. Add a spoonful of my flesh and blood, a tear, and something funny. But writing is a medicine for remembering; for continuing to be alive.

—Yasi Shaker

9

I have never wanted to believe in God more than I do now

I have never wanted more than now
for there to be a hell
where the unjust go
and the righteous are spared

When I meet him I will ask,
"What have you done?"
I imagine he will ask the same of me
We will weep
because the answer is the same

Not enough.

—Mark K. Tilsen

10

front had pictures of graffiti created in her honor and property destruction done in her name.

I'll never stop grieving as long as I live—the kind where the loss wells up so bad, I can't leave the house, sure, but also the kind where I burn. Every genocide, every suicide, every dull and painful existence is a murder by the state and capital. I refuse to forget that. I refuse to let anyone else forget it. Most of all, I fucking refuse to let anyone else go through that shit. I write and distro food and treat strangers with kindness. I do it for the ghosts hanging over my shoulders, the living dead, and myself. We're all we've got.

—Ben

2

Grief is a tightrope I walk. On the one end, there's the seemingly surreal amount of suffering, loss, death, pain, and hate. On the other, the connections, love, resistance, and refusal of my networks of kin and comrades. For my own well-being, balance is essential. To fall off this tightrope means to enter into crisis. And crises for me are the hopeless places of despair, suicidality, and addiction. I do not want to go back there, for I've worked too hard to get out.

This moment is challenging: it seems incomprehensible, yet demands that we live it. To accept reality yet not consent to its impositions is a difficult proposition. To be awake in a world awash in pain is to risk drowning in it. So I must set boundaries. I limit my intake of news. I make space for play. I reach out to others.

At my best, all I have done is say, "Friend, you don't need to carry this alone." I believe it is through collectively carrying the infinite weight of stolen lives, the weight of loss, injustice, fear, genocide, state terror, and fascism, that we forge collective memory. It is how we fight back against forgetting. And it is how together, we can walk forward, balanced in defiant grief. No one can hold all of this alone. We must all lend a hand to keep one another from falling.

—Scott Campbell

3

i need to laugh because i've exhausted my rage. i'm not sure where the anger has gone, and i'm nervous i've lost sight of laughter too. i'm not sure whether that's because i have been angry for so long that i've depleted the reserves of my rage, or because i can now only choose between apathy and resignation. there's comfort in the certainty of anger, but the dependability of fury is not enough. i'm tired, and i can't fall asleep because i think the state is keeping a closer eye on my friends than i am. our grief demands the impossible task of reconciling that our solidarity moves slower than genocide. i'm scared, yet i'm blessed with the struggle, even when i struggle to feel.

—JOTA

4

I'm a hospice music therapist. Every day I bear witness to the grief of the dying and their loved ones. I sit with them in their time of fear, anger, denial, and sorrow—not just to acknowledge and validate their grief, but to give them an outlet to express it.

Yet I also see and feel the deep grief of the world around me. I can't help but make these connections. To bear witness to genocide, climate disasters, and fascism.

Instead, we're all expected to move on. Set our pain aside. Go to our jobs and continue to feed the war machine in some endless cycle. But what I've learned through my work is that grief doesn't like to be stagnant. It doesn't like to be invisible.

Fascism tries to take so much from us, including making us feel alone. It has a much harder time prevailing, though, if we're united. Grief is a binding force. It ties people together from every walk of life through this most human of experiences. It shows us that we are interconnected; it builds community.

We have the power to channel our losses into music, art, prayer, poetry, organizing, and so much more. Taking the time to honor, express, and share your grief is rebellious. Don't let anyone take that from you.

—L. Hillebrand

5

When the news broke about Tennessee's gender-affirming care ban, I was at a queer youth leadership program, and my trans friends and I hosted a grief space to process it. We spent most of the night discussing our fears and anxieties. Then we moved toward collective care: hate-watching low-budget straight rom-coms, doing each other's hair and nails, and writing tragically terrible poetry.

From the outside, it might have looked like an angst-driven teenage gathering. But as the evening wore on, little sparks of hope started to appear.

We spoke of mutual aid efforts in our cities that are trying to support youths like us, spaces that have made us feel safe in the past, and the trans futures we envision. Those among us who hadn't organized before came away with suggestions. We all promised to crowdfund for each other's HRT or help each other travel across state lines if needed, and hold each other through these anxiety-ridden, painful times.

I also met someone that night who became one of my closest anarchist comrades. Yesterday, when we both began spiraling downward about the latest anti-trans news, we reminded ourselves to talk about the anarchist projects we want to start in resistance to that. She's trying to set up a mutual aid group to support trans youths with housing; I'm trying to create a similar thing for trans youths navigating coercive control. Both of us are still animated by the grief space and the hope it generated for us that evening, and thanks to the trans community we found in that darkest of moments, we're now able to dream in more liberatory ways.

—mk zariel

through 16 days of starvation just to get her mail.

The Palestine solidarity movement in the west cannot abandon people like her who have risked
their lives and continue to do so in resistance to the intolerable condition of genocide.

As of today one of my cellmates and I are on hunger strike at Santa Rita jail until her demands are met.

Solidarity with T Hoxha and all prisoners of the Palestine Solidarity movement!

Raze the walls!
Liberate all prisoners of the settler empire!
Casey Goonan

For more updates and ways to support Casey, go here. Check out a zine about the hunger strike here.

Black August and Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners

August sees two major dates in the prisoner solidarity calendar, Black August and the International Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners.

Texas prisoner Kwaneta Harris recently wrote on the importance of Black August for *Truthout,* and *The Final Straw Radio* interviewed Oregon uprising prisoner Malik Muhammad, who discussed their Black August practices and experiences.

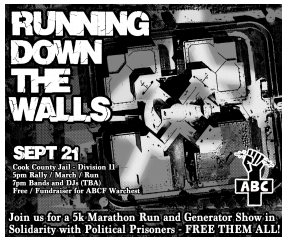
Interview with anarchist prisoner, Malik Muhammad, serving a 10 year concurrent Oregon & Federal sentence for participation in the 2020 uprising speaks on organizing in prison, solitary confinement, communication with the outside, #BlackAugust & morethefinalstrawradio.noblogs.or

— The Final Straw Radio (@thefinalstrawradio.bsky.social) 2025-08-17T14:20:28.112Z

For the Week of Solidarity, *The Final Straw* interviewed a participant in the new Solidarity International project, which brings together a number of groups around the world including Blue Ridge and Philadelphia ABCs, and organized a discussion with people involved in supporting prisoners held in Belarus, Russia and the UK.

As yet there's not a full list of events held during the week yet, but events confirmed so far include Berlin, Dresden, Potsdam, and Hamburg, Germany, and Bristol, UK.

Running Down the Walls


RUNNING DOWN THE WALLS
SEPT 21
Cook County Jail - Division II
5pm Rally / March / Run
7pm Bands and DJs (TBA)
Free / Fundraiser for ABCF Warchest
ABC
Join us for a 5k Marathon Run and Generator Show in Solidarity with Political Prisoners - FREE THEM ALL!

September 21st will see the 26th annual Running Down the Walls events happening all over. So far, events have been confirmed in New York, NY, Los Angeles, CA, Eugene, OR, Chicago, IL, Bloomington, IL, Lowell, MA, Portland, OR, and Miami, FL. A Pushing Down the Walls event (burpee contest) will also be taking place on November 8th in Southern California.

Mumia Abu-Jamal Medical Alert

There's an urgent medical alert for long-term Black Liberation prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose eyesight is rapidly deteriorating due to medical neglect. His support team write:

Mumia's eyesight is deteriorating at an alarming rate.

An independent expert ophthalmologist has confirmed the progression of his eye disease by analyzing Mumia's most recent eye exams. She reports that he needs surgery and medically necessary treatment "immediately" or faces the possibility of "permanent blindness."

Mumia's vision has plummeted from 20/30 with glasses in 2024 (near normal) to 20/200 today—legally blind—because the **Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC)** failed to adequately monitor his vision and delayed his urgently necessary medical treatment and surgery. The PA DOC has known since at least March of 2025 that Mumia needed eye surgery. Exams from 2024 - 2025 showed a sharp deterioration, demanding immediate intervention. Despite knowing the urgency, they waited until July to act and then pushed surgery off to an unspecified date in September.

Mumia believes he now suffers from *"diabetic retinopathy"* stemming from a diabetic coma that he endured after being given an improper and unmonitored dose of steroids for a skin disease in 2015. Mumia asserts that the PA DOC is **"slow-walking [him] to blindness"** in 2025 - another egregious case of the prison's medical neglect, medical harm, and inability to treat Mumia's medical needs.

Court records already document this pattern: (a) negligence in monitoring lab reports that led to the diabetic coma, and (b) deliberate denial and delay of his hepatitis C treatment that left him with cirrhosis.

For information on a recent phone-zap and how to apply pressure to

support Mumia, go here.

Editor's Note: *After this column was first published, it was announced that a "message was just received from Mumia's attorney Noel Hanrahan on Sept. 2: As a result of widespread and persistent pressure, Mumia finally received cataract 2 laser surgery on his left eye today and can now see very clearly. But we must remain vigilant, consistent, and make sure that he sees a retinal specialist to treat his additional diagnosis that threatens his eyesight."*

Political Prisoner News

Due to ongoing mail digitization programmes, there are new addresses for political prisoners Fran Thompson and Ronald Reed:

Nebraska Correctional Center for Women
State of Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
Fran Thompson #93341
Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Ronald Reed #219531
Minnesota Correctional Facility - Lino Lakes
Post Office Box 247
Phoenix, Maryland 21131

You can find the latest version of the NYC ABC listing of political prisoners here.

Former political prisoner Eric King recently appeared on the *Dugout* podcast and received a Jen Angel Anarchist Media Grant for his work interviewing other political prisoners. A Kickstart has also been set up for Eric's new book, here.

Former Black Liberation prisoner Dhoruba Bin Wahad is fighting cancer and recently had a crowdfunder taken down, and so is requesting funds are sent directly via Cashapp to $Dhoruba.

As part of their Abolition Week, *Scalawag Magazine* has published an article by Chicano anarchist prisoner Xinachtli on the colonial history of Texas Rangers, along with an article by one of his support committee on Xinachtli and his case.

Uprising Defendants, Stop Cop City and other Ongoing Cases

The Frederick 4 cases have kicked off in court, with all three defendants so far being sentenced to probation, plus 32 hours community service for one defendant. At least two defendants plan to appeal their sentences. The next court date, and the last of the non-jury trials, is currently scheduled for September 23rd.

> The dismissal of the Domestic Terrorism charge against Marsicano represents the latest in a series of legal setbacks for the state as it moves forward with its expansive effort to prosecute those who mobilized to '#StopCopCity':
>
> — Unicorn Riot (@unicornriot.bsky.social) 2025-08-28T21:57:46.782Z

Stop Cop City defendant Jamie Marsicano has had their domestic terrorism charge dropped, and a judge ruled their rights had been violated. As *Unicorn Riot* reported:

> Jamie Marsicano, one of dozens of defendants embroiled in the sprawling legal backlash brought against opponents of "Cop City," had a state-level Domestic Terrorism charge dropped in DeKalb County on Thursday. The dismissal represents the latest in a series of legal setbacks for the state as it moves forward with its expansive effort to prosecute those who mobilized to stop Cop City, a massive police training compound south of metro Atlanta in the South River Forest.
>
> More than 29 months after Jamie was arrested and charged under Georgia's domestic terrorism statute for their participation in the movement against Cop City, the state hadn't brought an indictment against the North Carolina resident, leaving them in limbo as they waited for a decision from the court regarding their charge and potential trial.
>
> In a ruling issued August 14, Judge Gregory Adams determined the pending charge had disrupted Jamie's life to the point that their due process rights had been violated. Further, Adams agreed with the defense's argument that the state was delaying Jamie's indictment in order to get a tactical advantage in the ongoing Racketeering Influenced Criminal Organization (RICO) case unfolding in neighboring Fulton County. The court also found that Marsicano's right to a speedy trial had been violated.

Chris "Big Tex" G, an antifascist in Texas, is facing new charges, having previously beaten older ones. You can donate to his legal defense funds here.

An activist in Texas is facing hate crime charges for spray painting slogans against Israel.

Also in Texas, 22 people have been arrested in Houston at a protest outside the Israeli consulate.

> Anti-ICE protester Adrienne Villa was arrested by state police on 6/13/25. Four days later, her bail was set at $1.33 million, a sum far beyond her means. Hours after her bail hearing, she was found hanging in a cell within the courthouse's lockup and pronounced dead at 4 AM.
>
> — Econ Analytica (@econanalytica.bsky.social) 2025-08-21T23:01:09.546Z

The LA Public Press has an analysis of the charges that were brought against 71 people as a result of resistance to ICE earlier this summer, and *VPS Reports* has a story in the *Daily Kos* concentrating specifically on the case of Adrienne Villa, who died by hanging in an LA jail after having bail set at $1.33 million.

In Spokane, WA, all failure to disperse charges against anti-ICE protesters have been dismissed, although it sounds like there's a risk the charges will be re-filed.

Seattle George Floyd Uprising defendant Tyre Means has been

Address:

Jorge P. Cornell #28152-057
FCI Butner Low
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 999
Butner, NC 27509

cover photo via Radical Graffiti

The Heart Is a Muscle: 19 Embodiments of Antifascist Grief

September 1, 2025

Long-time anarchist author and organizer Cindy Milstein presents a collection of stories about resistance and grief.

Print PDF ***HERE***
Read PDF ***HERE***

Somehow, "antifascist grief" doesn't roll off the tongue like the phrase "climate grief," but perhaps it needs, if not a name, to at least be named. To be acknowledged. To step out of the same shadow of denial that seems to make it hard for so many people to even decisively say "fascism."

Maybe that's because making do-it-ourselves time, space, and rituals for grief is, in general, still so difficult. Still so hidden away, individualized, or private. Still so almost forbidden to extend beyond certain moments, like a funeral, or certain categories, like loved (human) ones. Or because it's so huge, amorphous, and overwhelming—a daily onslaught of bad news—that it's tough to even recognize the feelings of grief. We say instead "depressed," "hopeless," "scared," brushing off the loss. So much loss. Or we hurt ourselves and/or others.

Perhaps we don't have words for the specificity of the grief that accompanies fascism because its genocidal logic and practices are too monstrous for a "simple" thing like mourning.

Yet we have ghosts. Our ever-restless, unquiet dead lost to past fascisms. They haunt our bodies and tear at our hearts and rend the fabric of our lives. They cry out for vengeance. They also cry, issuing a communal wail of sorrow and rage that shreds the veil between the dead and us living, magnifying our grief backward and coloring the present ash gray.

What we anticipatorily grieve is something that has already happened, and as if to us. It is carried in our bones as something our ancestors didn't want to leave us as their legacy, but fascism forced it on them. If we're lucky, we carry the deep muscle memory of resistance too.

What if we dared to hold hands with these ghosts—our ever restless, unquiet ghosts against fascism—as a bridge to aid them and ourselves to mourn out loud, rebelliously and collectively? To let their blessed memory spark a blessed flame to illuminate the patterns of antifascist grief we all seem to be weighed down by these days, versus suffering on our own? What if, by naming and honoring our grief under Christofascism, we see our path forward together in ways that break some of the patterns that are breaking us and could instead better break fascism?

At the beginning of the pandemic, a friend remarked that the most compelling and insightful works of literature about past eras of mass death often took decades for the survivors to write. That stuck with me: that it's no easy task at all to process the losses from a genocide, for instance, along with the trauma and grief it generates in painful abundance. It's harder still to know what to say, and in a way that resonates with others as somehow speaking truth to the horror of what was perpetrated, while preserving whatever scraps of our shared humanity managed to outlive it.

Maybe it's too early to speak of our "antifascist grief," then, when we're in the midst of all that's causing it, or when we're likely only at the beginning of this catastrophe(s).

Yet it seems crucial to try, even if only to swap inklings of how grief is touching us now and thus know we're not alone in our feelings—as many of the pieces in this zine underscore. And from there, sketch out—even if in tentative strokes—how it's (re)shaping us, where it's taking us, what it's calling us to do and not do. Rather than wait until a time when we might become the unquiet dead, needing to torment future generations into seeing and contesting protofascisms before it's too late, it's imperative to embrace our antifascist grief so as to never forget, to borrow an anarchist saying, that "our hearts are a muscle the size of a fist. Keep loving. Keep fighting."

—Cindy Barukh Milstein

1

First, there's the crowds of strangers. The starving Palestinian children flickering past my screen—that screen built on the blood and sweat of Congolese children.

Second, there's the friends of friends, whose stories I hear, but will never be a part of. Jack, who helped install the bathroom cabinet in the Big Idea Bookstore. Jude, who went to Cook Forest and had to break into a cabin she paid for. Casey, who Miles thought would live longer, but she died before he could answer her question.

Third, there's the graveyard of beautiful, impossible pasts, presents, and futures. I imagine my friends without their battle scars. I imagine a world full of plants mingling on the sidewalk with solar panels, and wildflowers instead of lawns. I imagine what my childhood could've been like.

A while back, I ordered some zines from Filler Distro. They came wrapped in a poster. The back of it was about someone named Corinne "Tension" Cuyler—all the projects she was a part of and her importance to the writer's life. The

Khalif Miller #QQ9287
Camp Hill
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho #08572-509
08572-509
FCI Beaumont Medium
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 26040
Beaumont, TX 77720

Christopher Tindal 04392-509
FCI Cumberland
PO Box 1000
Cumberland, MD 21501

Upcoming Birthdays

The Political Prisoners Birthday Calendar project has been revived, and you can find the September version of the calendar here.

Aleksandr Belov

An anarchist from Belarus who was detained on July 29th 2021 and given five years in prison on charges of organization of actions that disrupted public order during post-election protests in Belarus.

Belarusian prisons will usually only accept letters in Belarusian or Russian, so if you don't speak one of those languages your best bet is to email your message to belarus_abc(AT)riseup.net or use this online form and they should be able to translate your greetings and pass them on.

Birthday: September 1

Address:

(Belarusian or Russian letters only - use this form for English messages)

Belov Aleksandr Andreevich
Prison No. 4, ul. Krupskoy, 99A,
Mogilov,
212011, Belarus

John Bramble

A former Vaughn 17 defendant and contributor to the Vaughn uprising zines "Live from the Trenches" and "United We Stood" and other publications, such as the May 2020 and August 2021 issues of *Anathema.* Johnny has continued to organize and agitate against the prison system from within. As a result, he is still being held in solitary confinement.

Johnny is looking for anarchists, autonomists, and other radicals to regularly correspond with.

Delaware uses Getting Out for email messaging, so you can also send him a message by going to gettingout.com, setting up an account, and then adding him as a contact using his inmate number #405202.

Birthday: September 1

Address:

John Bramble #405202
Delaware DOC - 1101
PO Box 96777
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Bogdan Yakimenko

Bogdan Yakimenko is a Russian antifascist prisoner serving a 4 year sentence after being convicted in the "Antifa United" case. Letters to Russian prisoners must be written in Russian (you can use automatic translation services to help with this), and can be sent using the service prisonmail.online.

Birthday: September 3

Address:

Yakimenko Bogdan Tarasovich, b. 1999
SIZO-1, Matrosskaya Tishina St., 18,
107076 Moscow, Russia

Sean Swain

Long-term anarchist prisoner and contributor to projects such as the *Final Straw Radio* and *Fire Ant* zine.

Ohio now uses Connect Network/GTL, so you can contact him online by going to connectnetwork.com, selecting "Add a facility," choosing "State: Ohio, Facility: Ohio Department of Rehabiliation and Corrections," going into the "messaging" service, and then adding him as a contact by searching his name or "A243205."

Birthday: September 12

Address:

Sean Swain #A243205
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Mail Processing Center
878 Coitsville-Hubbard Rd
Youngstown, OH 44505

Greg Curry

Falsely convicted in the aftermath of the historic Lucasville prison uprising. You can learn more about Greg by reading his writings or listening to his interview with the *Final Straw*. Greg is currently working on an appeal against his wrongful conviction, so if you know a good attorney then please hit him up!You can buy merch to support Greg here.

Ohio now uses Connect Network/GTL, so you can contact him online by going to connectnetwork.com, selecting "Add a facility," choosing "State: Ohio, Facility: Ohio Department of Rehabiliation and Corrections", going into the "messaging" service, and then adding him as a contact by searching his name or "A213159".

Birthday: September 26

Address:

Greg Curry #213-159
878 Coitsville-Hubbard Rd
Youngstown, OH 44505

Jorge P. Cornell (King Jay)

Inca of the North Carolina Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation, community organizer who worked to broker truces and end gang violence and was given 28 years on a racketeering charge. You can learn more about King Jay by reading this profile of him. *The Final Straw* also broadcast two interviews with supporters, Sara Lee and Savannah, involved in solidarity efforts at the time of his trial.

King Jay is held in the Federal system, so you can only contact him via Corrlinks if he's added you as a contact.

Birthday: September 29

released and is asking for donations to help rebuild his life. An updated version of the Support Uprising Prisoners zine is available here, and Heatwave Magazine recently ran a feature on the work of the Uprising Support collective, which has been turned into a printable zine here.

Court Calls for Alligator Alcatraz to Close as Reports of Uprising Emerge

NEW: Immigration Detainees Revolt at Notorious Florida Detention Camp, Report Saysunicornriot.ninja/2025/immig

— Unicorn Riot (@unicornriot.bsky.social) 2025-08-29T10:42:40.233Z

Following a lawsuit launched by the Miccosukee tribe, a federal court has ordered a halt to construction of the 'Alligator Alcatraz' facility, which is built on Miccosukee land, and has called for the site to be closed within 60 days, although the state of Florida is now appealing the ruling. As of the end of August, reports of an attempted uprising at the facility are beginning to emerge.

As *Unicorn Riot* reported:

> Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport, Everglades, FL - According to reporting by Noticias 23/Univision, an uprising took place on or around Thursday, August 28 at the notorious immigrant detention center called 'Alligator Alcatraz' by some and the 'Everglades Concentration Camp' by others. The site has drawn widespread condemnation due to severe human rights and environmental violations and is in the process of closing.
>
> Noticias 23/Univison reports that three detainees contacted them by phone and that alarms could be heard in the background of calls from the facility. At least four people detained at the rapidly-constructed detention camp, ordered shut down by a federal judge on Wednesday, have been reportedly injured in the uprising. The number of guards injured is currently unknown.
>
> Guards reportedly used tear gas and indiscriminate beatings to regain control of the facility when an unknown number of suffering captives began to revolt, presumably to attempt to escape. Detainees who contacted the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Spanish-language news outlet said that they could hear fire alarms as well as the sound of helicopters circling the facility.
>
> The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), tasked with running the facility, denies that any such events took place and did not respond to requests for comment according to Noticias 23/Univision. However, details reported in this incident are consistent with an earlier August 6 report by NBC 6 South Florida, in which detainees calling the news station reported general chaos, mass beatings by guards, and the likely death of an injured or sick person seen laying on the floor **"dying"** with no medical care available. The FDEM replied to NBC 6's inquiry for their earlier story by insisting **"these claims are false."** Detainees at the camp went on hunger strike in July stretching into August but the Department of Homeland Security repeatedly insisted this was not happening.
>
> According to Noticias 23/Univision's August 28 report, statements made by detainees who reached their reporters by telephone included the following. Quotes in Spanish reported by Noticias 23/Univision have been rush translated into English and may contain minor errors:
>
> **"They started yelling because a person had received news that a relative had died, and then they began shouting for freedom. At that moment, a prison team entered and started beating everyone. Right now everything is chaotic, and there's a helicopter above. They've beaten everyone here, a lot of people have bled. Brother, tear gas. We are immigrants, we are not criminals, we are not murderers."**
>
> **"There are helicopters overhead and a lot of people bleeding."**
>
> **"They are beating us, they are mistreating us."**
>
> (Through tears): **"We are being mistreated, we are being beaten. It's the emergency alarm, please help us."**

Read the full article here.

Resistance to ICE Continues

Resistance continues against existing camps and other attempts to set up new facilities elsewhere, including the proposed Camp Baker elsewhere in Florida and the Moshannon Valley Processing Center near Philipsburg, PA. The US state is attempting to push ahead with construction of other new sites across the country, such as in Southwest Nebraska, all of which can be potential targets for resistance.

It's Going Down recently interviewed Alissa Azar on the ongoing resistance to ICE in Portland.

In El Paso, Texas, people are demanding the release of Catalina "Xochitl" Santiago, a community organizer and DACA recipient currently detained in ICE custody.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia will be held in the US in ICE custody until at least early October, as his legal battle continues.

According to *The Guardian:*

> The arrest of a US army veteran who protested against the Trump administration's immigration crackdown has raised alarms among legal experts and fellow veterans familiar with his service in Afghanistan.
>
> Bajun Mavalwalla II - a former army sergeant who survived a roadside bomb blast on a special operations mission in Afghanistan - was charged in July with "conspiracy to impede or injure officers" after joining a demonstration against federal

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) in Spokane, Washington.

Legal experts say the case marks an escalation in the administration's attacks on first amendment rights. Afghanistan war veterans who know him say the case against Mavalwalla appears unjust.

Read the full article here.

UPROAR and Collective Punishment in Virginia Prisons

UPROAR organized a protest in Richmond at the end of August opposing abuse and neglect in VADOC, the Virginia prison system. They have a new campaign responding to reports of widespread collective punishment across Red Onion, Keen Mountain, and River North:

Reports from **Red Onion (Wise Co.)**, **Keen Mountain (Buchanan Co.)**, and **River North (Grayson Co.)** describe a new "privileges & incentives" regime that imposes *collective punishment* — confiscating tablets/TVs and slashing visits, phone access, recreation, and commissary from people who did *not* offend. We also possess a **verbatim memo from Red Onion** implementing these policies.

Virginia DOC's statewide rule, **Operating Procedure 861.1 (Inmate Discipline)**, requires discipline to be *individual, post-conviction, and time-limited*, with safeguards for limited commissary access, legal/attorney communication, and minimum out-of-cell time. The reported practices contradict those requirements.

They're also organizing a campaign in defense of Cameron Harper at Keen Mountain, who had a knife planted in his cell to justify retaliatory charges. On September 17, they'll be organizing court support for Austin Arocho, who's facing new felony charges after setting himself on fire in protest at his conditions.

Mail Digitization in California Prisons

Oakland Abolition & Solidarity have shared an update on the fight against mail digitization in California. They write:

> Mail digitization if not immediate in CA remains possible whatever the timeline or present state of Sacramento's deliberation. Our mandate remains the same though - to build and fight - and now that we have a better grasp of the campaign landscape, we can work on next steps. Our formation has particular strengths of analysis and motion compared to the civil rights and policy oriented nonprofit sector, and correspondingly it's time to assess just what is "in our wheelhouse" and stretch a bit beyond it.
>
> Conclusions Mail digitization if not immediate in CA remains possible whatever the timeline or present state of Sacramento's deliberation. Our mandate remains the same though - to build and fight - and now that we have a better grasp of the campaign landscape, we can work on next steps. Our formation has particular strengths of analysis and motion compared to the civil rights and policy oriented nonprofit sector, and correspondingly it's time to assess just what is "in our wheelhouse" and stretch a bit beyond it.

Read the full report here.

General Prison News & Abolitionist Media Updates

A rally in support of wrongly imprisoned firefighter Brian "Hakyim" Simpson was held in Portland, Oregon on August 9th.

Vaughn 17 prisoner Jarreau Ayers has launched a new podcast, the *Yard Talk*.

> Should non-profits be turned to in search of legal protection from fascism? Dylan says—"Another responsibility a lot of us have... is to be really sober and direct and loving in how we communicate the diagnosis of the historical period that we are privileged to be part of. Which is to say..." 1/🧵
>
> — Outlaw Podcast (@outlawpod.bsky.social) 2025-08-20T14:43:26.513Z

The Outlaw podcast recently had an episode on non-profits and state repression.

Texas prisoner Jason Renard Walker has published several new articles on his blog, covering TDCJ and Securus staff members using their position to carry out identity fraud, the Jeffrey Epstein case, and his experiences with the white supremacist El Paso mass shooter.

Mongoose Distro has published another article by Ronin Grey on forced detention in psychiatric hospitals.

The support team for Lucasville Uprising prisoner Greg Curry held a successful fundraiser in Detroit in late August, and are planning another for October.

The San Francisco Bay View have marked Black August with an article on the campaign to free Donald "C-Note" Hooker, a writer imprisoned in the California system.

> Bryan Hooper, another wrongfully convicted Black man in Minnesota, is hoping to be freed from his life sentence after the state's key trial witness recently admitted to the murder Hooper was convicted for. unicornriot.ninja/2025/after-2...
>
> — Unicorn Riot (@unicornriot.bsky.social) 2025-08-23T06:46:33.216Z

Unicorn Riot has coverage of the campaign to free Bryan Hooper, who has spent 27 years in the Minnesota prison system for a murder that someone else has now confessed to, and a look at the current state of mail censorship and book bans in the Federal system.

The anti-carceral collective No Estamos Todes have given an interview on the current state of the prison system in Chiapas, Mexico.

Scalawag Magazine runs an annual Abolition Week in August, showcasing writing by prisoners and about the prison system, with this year's articles including trans Texas prisoner Xandan Gulley on staff-arranged fights, a poem by New York prisoner E Paris Whitfield, New York prisoner Corey Devon Arthur on new rulings allowing staff to record strip searches, Texas prisoner Lanae Tipton on mental health care in prison, an article on the links between the IDF and ICE, a report on the launch of a poetry collection by US Palestinian political prisoner Shukri Abu Baker of the Holy Land 5, and an article on the similarities between ICE and military recruitment by anti-ICE activist Samantha Hamilton and current detainee Alma Bowman.

International

As this column was being put together, a massive uprising has kicked off in Indonesia. Expect more updates soon, but you can contribute to a solidarity fund here. A post from the Anarchist Black Cross wrote:

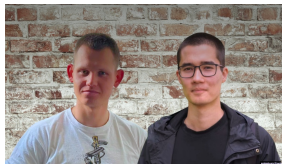
> **Palang Hitam / ABC Indonesia** asks if it is possible to organise solidarity demonstration/action at the Indonesian embassies in foreign countries. We ask comrades from various countries for help.
>
> The mass uprising in Indonesia is facing severe repression. Dozens of people are confirmed missing, at least 6 people have been killed. Many are injured. Thousands of people have been arrested. Police have been attacking the universities. Police and army check points are setting up everywhere. Many people are being arrested for live streamings and counter-info blogs and social medias are being tracked and comrades arrested. NGOs, liberal/left unions and student union stewards are helping the repression.

In UK news, IWOC has published a report on anarchist ex-prisoner Toby Shone facing continuing hassle when crossing the UK border, along with two new articles from prisoner Kevan Thakrar looking at the reality of the UK's prison expansion project, and conditions inside England's torture units.

In Greece, anarchist Andreas Floros has been acquitted in the "Revenge Conspiracy" case, while Barış Erhan, a Turkish revolutionary who had to flee to Greece, has been sentenced to 74 years after being wrongfully convicted of people smuggling.

There's a call for a long-term campaign of sending mail in to Italian anarchist prisoner Alfredo Cospito to break the isolation the state is imposing on him.

The Palestinian Prisoners Society has published a report on abuses against women prisoners held in Israel's Damon prison in August, and Samidoun report that Abdul-Jabbar Jarrar has been sentenced to an additional year of administrative detention on the anniversary of the death of his wife. Wafa Jarrar. Samidoun is also calling for the freedom of Lebanese and Syrian prisoners held in Israeli jails. Mohammed Khatib, the European coordinator for Samidoun, is currently threatened with deportation from Belgium.



Andrey Chepyuk and Akihiro Gaevsky-Khanada

Unicorn Riot has an extensive report looking at the repression of the Palestine solidarity movement in Germany, while the International Antifascist Defense Fund has made a contribution to help antifascists in Augsburg, Germany, repair their homes after they were damaged in police raids.

In Chile, the trial of Aldo and Lucas Hernández, anarchists accused of taking actions against the police, continues.

Belarus ABC have published a round-up of news about anarchist political prisoners in Belarus in recent months, along with the first part of an in-depth interview with former anarchist prisoners Akihiro Gaevsky-Khanada and Andrey Chepyuk.

ABC Moscow have shared news of the birthdays of Russian anarchist and antifascist prisoners Savely Frolov, Nikita Uvarov and Bogdan Yakimenko, and have news on the case of Dmitry Osyagin, an anarchist who has been sentenced to 15 years for sabotage actions against a court building and anti-government comments.

Uprising Defendants

See Uprising Support for more info, and check out the Antirepression PDX site for updates from Portland cases. You can also check With Whatever Weapons for regularly-updated zines listing current prisoners. To the best of our knowledge they currently include:

Margaret Channon 49955-086
FCI Tallahassee
P.O. Box 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Malik Muhammad #23935744
Snake River Correctional
777 Stanton Blvd
Ontario, OR 97914

Montez Lee 22429-041
FCI Petersburg Medium
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 1000
Petersburg, VA 23804

Matthew Rupert#55013-424
USP Big Sandy
US Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

José Felan #54146-380
FCI Terre Haute
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

David Elmakayes 77782-066
USP Lee
PO Box 305
Jonesville, VA 24263